THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Don talks peace, no let-up so far

US Prez reiterates claim he stopped India-Pak conflict; Israel, Iran launch day-time strikes

AGENCIES @ Jerusalem / Dubai/ New York

EVEN as Israel and Iran stepped up their attacks on each other for the third straight day on Sunday, hitting defence, infrastructure, and civilian targets, US President Donald Trump claimed a peace deal is in the works to stop the war.

In a social media post, Trump said "many calls and meetings" were taking place at his instance to de-escalate tensions. Reiterating his claim that he interfered to stop the military engagement between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam attack, Trump said: "Iran and Israel should make a deal, and will make a deal, just like I got India and Pakistan to make..."

Meanwhile, the toll on both sides mounted with 13 deaths reported in Israel and 406 in Iran since Friday.

A plume of heavy smoke and fire seen over an oil refinery in southern Tehran on Sunday, after it was hit in an overnight Israeli strike | AFP

Iran on Sunday launched its first day-time attack on Israel as it fired a barrage of ballistic missiles aimed at Tel Aviv and Haifa. Israeli media reports said some missiles hit the energy facilities in Haifa.

Through Saturday night and Sunday morning, Israel conducted several strikes across Iran including capital Tehran. According to Iran's oil ministry, the Shahran gasoline depot in Tehran caught fire during the Israeli attack. Another large oil refinery—Shahr Rey—was also struck.

The Israeli military said 80 targets were hit in Tehran in overnight strikes. The targets included fuel depots, the headquarters of Iran's defence ministry and others related to Iran's nuclear programme.

In an unprecedented warning, the Israeli military on Sunday asked Iranians living around weapons factories to immediately leave the area.

US media reports on Sunday said Trump 'vetoed' Israel's plan to kill Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, signalling how far Tel Aviv was prepared to go. P9

Rescue operation under way after an iron bridge over the Indrayani river collapsed in Maharashtra's Pune district on Sunday | PTI

At least four dead in Maha bridge collapse

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AT least four persons died and several others were feared swept away after a crowded 30-year-old iron bridge over the Indrayani river collapsed in Pimpri Chinchwad of Maharashtra on Sunday afternoon. Over 30 others were injured in the accident, six of whom were in a critical state when reports last came in.

According to the local administration, the bridge on the Indrayani is one of the popular tourist destinations near the Kundmala area in Maval tehsil of Pune district. Eyewitnesses said the bridge was corroded and tourists on it were shooting photographs when it collapsed.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rescued 38 people. Two NDRF teams were deployed and they were carrying out search and rescue operations at the site.

Maval MLA Sunil Shelke said there were over 100 people on the bridge at the time of the accident. "Some fell into the river but managed to swim to safety," he said, adding the bridge was constructed for the movement of farmers 30 years ago. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident. He said as per a preliminary report, the bridge was corroded and maintenance work may not have been carried out on time.

No clarity yet on identity of 18 Air India crash victims

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

DAYS after the horrific AI-171 air crash here, there is still no clear word on the toll and identity of the deceased. While the ill-fated Air India plane had 242 on board, one passenger survived the crash into the campus of the BJ Medical College and Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad.

On Saturday, the president of the Junior Doctors' Association of the college, Dr Dhaval Gameti, said 270 bodies had been received at the Civil Hospital. However, 272 DNA samples have been collected so far. That figure includes 13 others — nine local residents and four medical students. Who were the 18 other victims (272 - [241 + 13])? There is no clarity.

For its part, the government said the exact number and identity of the fatalities can be established only after the DNA identification process is over.

So far, 80 victims have been identified through DNA testing. Thirty-three bodies, including that of former chief minister Vijay Rupani, have been handed over to their respective families. The Gujarat government announced a state mourning on Monday as a mark of respect for Rupani.

Meanwhile, a high-level team from the Prime Minister's Office, led by Principal Secretary Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra, arrived in Ahmedabad to monitor the ongoing relief and investigation process. P8

HEAVY RAIN CLAIMS 3 LIVES IN BHATKAL

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Bhatkal/ Karwar (Uttara Kannada)

HEAVY rainfall in Uttara Kannada claimed three lives, including a two-year-old who was seen on CCTV being washed away in an open drain.

All the three deaths occurred in Bhatkal, which received very heavy rainfall since Saturday evening. The downpour has caused landslides, house collapse, extensive damage, tree collapse and water logging.

The two-year-old girl was playing outside the house when she slipped and fell into the open drain at Azad Nagar. She was immediately washed away in the gushing waters . The CCTV footage showed the girl trying to hold onto something to get out of the drain, while no one was in the vicinity to rescue the child.

Sources said that she was the daughter of Tauseef and Arzoo. She was rescued later down the drain and was rushed to the hospital where she breathed her last. The incident occurred on Saturday evening. P5

7 dead as chopper carrying pilgrims crashes

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

ALL seven persons on a helicopter en route to Guptkashi from the shrine of Kedarnath were killed when it crashed at Gaurikund area of Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district around 5.30 am on Sunday.

This is the fifth such accident on the Chardham Yatra route since the pilgrimage started on April 30. The latest incident prompted suspension of all helicopter services for the Yatra until further orders.

The Bell 407, operated by Aryan Aviation, was engulfed in flames immediately after the crash, reducing it to ashes.

"The helicopter took off from Guptakashi at 05.10 hrs and landed at Shri Kedarnath ji Helipad at 05.18 hrs. The helicopter took off again at 05.19 hrs for Guptkashi and crashed near Gaurikund," an official statement said.

The Union civil aviation ministry suspended the services of the helicopter operator. The ministry said the helicopter took off despite poor visibility. The exact cause will be determined after a detailed probe by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, it added.

Among the six pilgrims was a two-year-old child. The pilot, Captain Rajbeer Singh Chauhan, was also killed.

"Women cutting grass were the first to report the crash, after which rescue teams rushed to the spot," District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar told *TNIE*.

According to Rahul Chaubey, nodal officer for helicopter services, the victims included a couple from Maharashtra and their 23-month-old child, identified as Rajkumar Jaiswal, Shraddha Jaiswal, and Kashi Jaiswal. The others were Tushti Singh, Vinod Negi, and Vikram Singh Rawat.

NDRF and SDRF personnel at the spot after a helicopter crashed near the Kedarnath shrine, in Rudraprayag dist , Uttarakhand, on Sunday | NDRF VIA PTI

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AIR 3rd — Pujari Hasini, App.No: 250410476646, Classroom Student
AIR 3rd — Reddymall Sreeshanth, App.No: 250410077199, Classroom Student
AIR 4th — Mrinal Kishore Jha, Roll.No: 2313103182, nPrep
AIR 4th — Shaha Tejas Twinkle, App.No: 250410552620, nPrep
AIR 7th — Keshav Mittal, App.No: 250410409767, nPrep
AIR 10th — K Prajwal Singh Rathod, App.No: 250410356967, nPrep

All Category Top Ranks
12 Aashi Singh
12 Aditya Yadav
13 M Venkata Srinivas
14 Somya Sharma
17 K Jeevan Sai Kumar
17 Y Sameer Kumar
18 B Maulik Khimji Bhai
19 M Hansika Reddy
19 Rupayan Pai
26 Muskan Anand
27 M Akhil Balaji Naik
31 Manish H
35 M Sesha Sai Charan
37 Devashish Sharma
37 Naveen mittal
38 Kavin S E
39 Banoth Vamshi
42 T Keerthi Chawla
44 Dasi Hema Sagarika
44 D Kushal Sai
44 Krisshank B Awaradi
45 Desina Surya Charan
46 Yarasi Krishna Praneeth
47 Rijul jain
48 Devyansh Arora
53 Yashashwi Kumar
55 Armaan Bery
57 Diganth S
62 J P Abhilnava
62 Raghav Goyal
66 Bidisha Majee
71 Bhukya Kulas Naik
73 V Sowbaranika
73 Darshan Mule
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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 16.06.2025 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Uttarayana
• Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Panchami 1.12 pm
• Nakshatra: Dhanishta 11.21 pm • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 26°C
FORECAST
Passing showers. Overcast

Sunrise 05.53 am
Sunset 06.47 pm
Moonrise 11.01 pm
Moonset 10.07 am

Floods: Palike to instal sluice gates at 38 lakes

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THE Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) lake wing has decided to instal sluice gates at 38 lakes under the National Disaster Management Act, and has sought Rs 14 crore for the purpose from the chief commissioner of the Palike.

The Palike's aim is to control the outflow of water from the lakes and to ensure that low-lying areas do not get flooded whenever it rains heavily.

According to a senior lake engineer from the Palike, a proposal has been sent to the chief commissioner's office, seeking approval to install sluice gates at six lakes in Yelahanka, eight in Bommanahalli, five in Dasarahalli, six in RR Nagar, 10 in Mahadevapura, two in South and one in West zones.

Sluice gates at Allalasandra, Doddabommasandra, Attur and Kogilu lakes will help address the problem of flooding in Yelahanka. Similarly, sluice gates will be installed at Yelachenahalli and Subramanyapura lakes, and at water bodies in the South Zone. They will help prevent flooding of low-lying areas such as Fayazabad and Krishna Nagar in the South Zone.

"Sluice gates and waste weirs will be built at Panathur and Sadaramangala lakes. The Palike will install sluice gates at Kaikondrahalli and Munnekolalu lakes and at some water bodies in the Mahadevapura Zone. The sluice gates will also ensure that the lakes won't become dry during the summer," an official said.

According to the Palike's lake department, each sluice gate and waste weir will cost between Rs 25 lakh and 70 lakh depending on the geographical features of the lakes. "The total cost of the project covering 38 lakes has been estimated at Rs 14 crore. The lake department is awaiting the chief commissioner's approval," he said.

BBMP is taking up a series of measures to rid KR Market of filth and garbage | EXPRESS

HISTORIC KR MARKET GETS SET FOR MAJOR CLEAN-UP INITIATIVE

Daily washing, strict garbage rules on cards

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

THE stench of rotting waste, pools of mixed slush and flooded parking areas -- long a grim reality at Bengaluru's iconic KR Market -- may soon be history. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has unveiled an ambitious, multi-pronged plan to restore cleanliness and order to one of the city's oldest and busiest marketplaces.

As part of the initiative, the entire market will be cleaned using high-pressure washers twice a day, while a strict garbage disposal and clearance system will be enforced. The goal is to create a cleaner, safer environment for both vendors and shoppers.

"BBMP is implementing a series of measures to make the market cleaner and more people-friendly. We've found that the number of vendors currently operating in KR Market far exceeds its capacity. We will identify and register vendors in accordance with the official policy, cap their numbers, and assign designated vending zones," Vikas Suralkar Kishore, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), told *The New Indian Express*.

One of the most pressing issues has been the indiscriminate dumping of waste by vendors. "New rules for garbage disposal will be introduced," Kishore said. "Dustbins will be placed at strategic locations across the vending zone, and vendors will be required to dispose of their waste only in these bins. BBMP staff will clear the garbage regularly, and violators will face penalties."

To tighten enforcement, the civic body has already deployed additional Pourakarmikas, Marshals and BBMP officials in two shifts. Over 60 CCTV cameras will be installed throughout the market to monitor compliance and cleanliness in real time. "We've completed a site survey to determine optimal camera locations, and installation will begin shortly," he added.

The market will also be geo-fenced and divided into zones, with BBMP officials assigned to each area. "If any official's zone fails to meet cleanliness standards-say, due to uncollected waste-they will be held accountable," said Kishore.

Flooding in the basement parking area during rains is another long-standing issue. The BBMP has already floated tenders for drainage upgrades, which are expected to eliminate the problem once completed.

"We are confident that visible improvements will be seen within the next three months," he concluded.

Bike taxis to go off city roads from today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE ban on bike taxis will come into effect on Monday, following a Karnataka High Court directive that such services cease operations after June 15.

On Sunday, the Bike Taxi Association wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, urging their intervention to protect the livelihoods of gig workers affected by the ban. The association stated that over one lakh gig workers across Karnataka, including many in Bengaluru, will lose their right to earn a livelihood due to the blanket ban.

In its appeal, the association said, "Our request is simple: don't ban us overnight. Talk to us. Help us find a way so that passengers can travel safely, rules are followed, and our families can survive. If there are real issues, let us solve them together -- do not ignore our voice."

However, sources in the transport department confirmed that enforcement of the ban will commence from Monday.

The decision has upset those who were dependent on bike taxis. Many stated that the government should reconsider the ban, citing the affordability and convenience of bike taxis, especially in the context of Bengaluru's lack of first- and last-mile connectivity.

Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Aarin Capital and a vocal supporter of bike taxis, took to X to appeal to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. "Minister DK Shivakumar, please allow bike taxis in Bengaluru. They are huge jobs, and a very useful service for citizens. Our Metro is way behind schedule, bus service inadequate, we cannot have more using personal vehicles. Bike taxis reduce vehicles. Please intervene, please allow."

The crucial role of bike taxis in enabling first- and last-mile connectivity in urban areas like Bengaluru was underscored in a report by Aapti Institute, a research organisation. The report, based on a roundtable held on May 7, urged the state to introduce a balanced regulatory framework, drawing inputs from legal experts, researchers, aggregators and driver representatives.

With over 1.5 lakh riders relying on bike taxis for income across the state, the report warned that a blanket ban could jeopardise livelihoods, especially for migrants, students, part-time workers and women. The absence of legal recognition has also deprived these workers of essential protections, including insurance and grievance redressal mechanisms. The report recommended legal recognition through structured, flexible permit systems, phased implementation for compliance, and clear aggregator accountability, including insurance mandates, data-sharing protocols, and safety standards. It also called for integrating bike taxis into the state's broader mobility strategy, referencing successful models from West Bengal and Assam.

Rapido, one of the major bike taxi platforms, stated in a press release on Sunday: "We respect the Karnataka High Court directive and remain committed to working with the government to create a sustainable framework that protects gig workers and ensures safe, affordable mobility for millions relying on bike taxis across the state."

RUN FOR A CAUSE

Participants gear up to take part in the 7th edition of the annual RunAdicts, a volunteer-driven initiative to promote a healthy and active lifestyle, at Rajarajeshwari Nagar on Sunday. This year's theme was 'Educate a Rural Child' | EXPRESS

KSRTC MD Akram Pasha calls upon minister Ramalinga Reddy

Attacks on BMTC crew: Transport min writes to HM

Bengaluru: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has written to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara urging him to take action against those attacking the crew of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses. The minister's letter, dated June 15, comes days after a woman hit a BMTC bus driver in Bellandur with a slipper. An FIR was registered against her at Bellandur police station. "Many such attacks have occurred in the past too. I had written to the then Bengaluru City Commissioner and also directed the BMTC MD to meet him in person, urging strict action against the attackers," he said in the letter. Reddy said attacks against the BMTC crew has been increasing. While demanding strict action, the minister pointed out that the bus corporation also takes action against its crew in cases where they are at fault. Meanwhile, Akram Pasha, who recently took charge as managing director of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), called upon Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Sunday. ENS

Rectify incorrect DCET info on June 18 & 19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CANDIDATES who entered incorrect information in their Diploma Common Entrance Test (DCET)-2025 online application can make corrections by appearing in person at the KEA office in Malleshwaram on Wednesday or Thursday.

KEA Executive Director H Prasanna said the candidates must carry their application form, admit card, document verification letter, all original documents and two sets of photocopies of all certificates. Slot booking should be done on Monday before the verification. This opportunity is for those who failed to submit documents on time, entered incorrect diploma exam marks, document claims, or professional claims, or realised mistakes after attending the verification.

Meanwhile, diploma students who have qualified in the National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA)- 2025 examination must enter their NATA scores on the KEA portal on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Energy Minister KJ George receives an award recognising the state's achievement in wind power capacity from Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi at the Global Wind Day programme in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Karnataka leads country in adding wind power capacity

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA has topped the country in wind power capacity addition for 2024-25, adding 1,331.48 MW — the highest among all states. The achievement was recognised at the Global Wind Day 2025 celebrations, held under the theme 'Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India'. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat followed, with additions of 1,136.37 MW and 954.76 MW, respectively.

Energy Minister KJ George, who received the award from Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi, mentioned that Karnataka's total installed wind power capacity has now reached 7,351 MW and that the state has a commitment to the national goal of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, including 100 GW from wind.

Joshi said, "As a proud Kannadiga, it's meaningful to celebrate Global Wind Day in Karnataka — the land of Hanuman, the original symbol of wind power. Just as he embodied the power of the wind, we are now capturing it through modern offshore turbines."

Highlighting India's growing capabilities, Joshi said, "In 2014, our solar manufacturing capacity was just 2-3 GW. Today, we manufacture 90 GW worth of modules. The same is happening in wind – nacelles, gearboxes, turbines – all are now being made in India." He added that domestic manufacturing of high-end electronics like mobile phones, including Apple devices, has risen significantly because of government policy. "Today, 97% of Apple phones exported to the US in March and April came from India," he noted.

The minister identified three key challenges - ensuring 24x7 power and grid stability through integration of wind, solar, and pumped storage, offering competitive power tariffs and boosting domestic manufacturing to position India as a global leader in green energy.

Joshi also released a report titled 'Ramping Up Local Manufacturing for Wind Turbines in India', which outlines a strategy to strengthen India's wind turbine manufacturing ecosystem.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

16TH June : We have been through some powerful planetary patterns. How do you feel? Are you still here? I'm the last person to say that such alignments have no significance, but I hope that all those people who forecast either the end of the world, or the dawn of a new age, are now shown to be wrong!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
As the Moon sweeps through the most personal reaches of your solar chart you would be well advised to pay urgent attention to matters close to home. Working Ariens will be encouraged to get as far ahead as they can, and not to let random emotions interfere with the working day.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
If there is to be a theme for the week, it should be that arguments can be positive - and that it's good to clear the air. The favourable way to harmonise your life with today's stars is to set out to take decisions and open new lines of communication.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You're still receiving a valuable shot of energy from Mars' relationship with your sign but, in general, the situation is looking rather less organised. So, if you do have practical tasks to complete, you must be sure to step up your level of concentration.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon's friendly presence is a definite plus, but the fact that it's your personal ruler is an additional sign that you can afford to raise your sights. If you're making plans for tomorrow, though, understand that circumstances may have changed before twenty-four hours have passed - and that there might be extra costs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You're about to face some hard decisions, not all of which will be of your own making. Today you can spend as much time as you wish day-dreaming, for your fantasies will point the way to the truth. Mind you, if you want respect, then you'll have to earn it.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This is a special time of year, and you should move forward with confidence and faith in your future. Set yourself up for a positive time by seeking allies at work and planning social initiatives at home. Just one word of caution though - secret feelings could be about to become public.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
It's time to indulge your ambitions and accept responsibility over others. This is something you often tend to avoid, in spite of the fact that, as current developments should demonstrate, you are able to handle your duties with unique skill.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Pay attention to the legal situation and make sure that you are well aware of your rights. It's a positive moment for travel, although any delays could be caused by family members or home commitments. Take simple precautions now and you'll thank yourself in future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The strongest emerging theme in your solar chart is a desire for prestige and status, and this will obviously help those of you planning professional promotion. Your daily planetary patterns, though, focus on your need to sort out joint financial affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You must pay extra attention to family members' needs today, for if they are not satisfied they have ways, even unintentionally, of sabotaging your hopes in return. Scratch their backs and they'll scratch yours. That's the way the world works!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Stay busy and realise that a day spent coping with routine chores need not be dull. Also, check up on your physical situation and take steps to get in shape, cleaning up your diet and exercise. After all, your body is a shrine, as the mystics always tell us.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
It's a fair day for taking some time off and indulging in a private affair or devoting a little time to an artistic activity. If unavoidable commitments beckon, try to make them as personally enjoyable as possible. There's no point in suffering when you don't have to!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

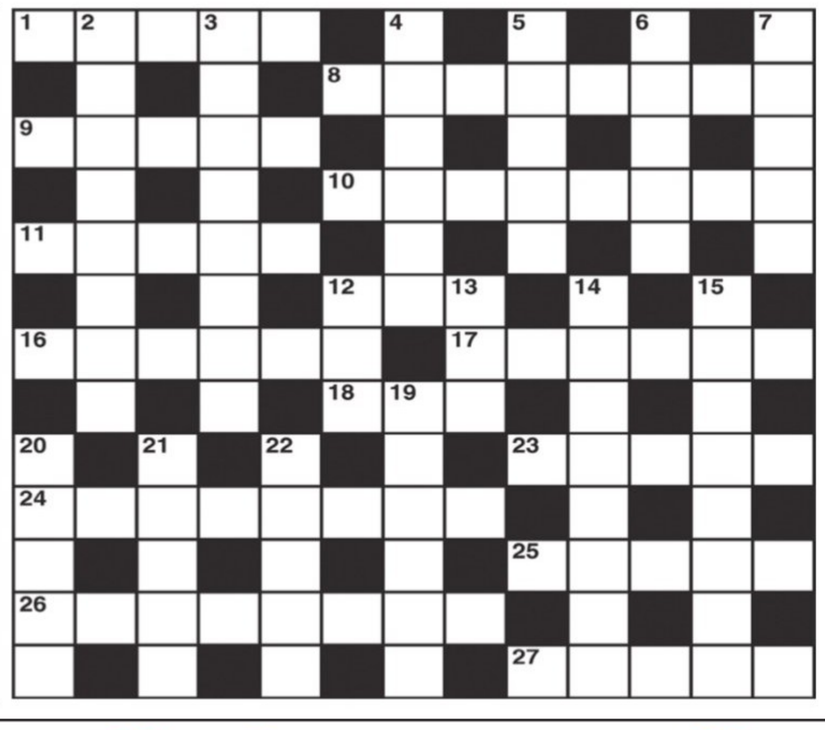
7		5					3	
	2		5			1		
	1			3				
		7			4	8		3
	6			1			9	
8		4	7			2		
				4			7	
		1			9		5	
	8					9		1

6	7	8	3	4	5	9	1	2
4	2	3	9	7	1	5	6	8
1	5	9	8	2	6	7	4	3
3	6	1	5	8	2	4	7	9
2	9	7	1	6	4	8	3	5
8	4	5	7	9	3	1	2	6
5	8	6	2	1	7	3	9	4
9	1	2	4	3	8	6	5	7
7	3	4	6	5	9	2	8	1

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Discover the snag (5)
8 Order cattle by the head (8)
9 Write in a way that's effete (5)
10 Caused alarm to go off in the van (8)
11 As a rule it has a local effect (5)
12 Some sheets to sleep in? (3)
16 I got round to finding a painter (6)
17 Falsely disloyal (6)
18 Close friends at heart (3)
23 Look around in the river (5)
24 The takings to pass on to somebody else? (8)
25 Colour scheme for last month - heraldic gold (5)
26 An editor fiddled when on an allowance (8)
27 A flash of brilliance (5)

DOWN
2 It really is a breathtaking experience (8)
3 Nice seat reserved for a movie buff (8)
4 A woman is in the bar drunk (6)
5 Baby bird? (5)
6 Gave the players a hand (5)
7 Unorthodox ideas expressed privately (5)
12 Writer of effortless verse (3)
13 Anyway this bomb presents no danger (3)
14 Key leather treatment is delicate (8)
15 Refuse to reduce the volume (4,4)
19 Wanted two points to open new deed (6)
20 Tale of one's past or youth (5)
21 Beastly way for Caesar to address his killer (5)
22 Stop or pass on (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Balloonist, 6 Keep, 10 Comet, 11 Repressed, 12 Plethora, 13 Sales, 15 Regimes, 17 Olivier, 19 Hatpins, 21 Regatta, 22 Inset, 24 Allergic, 27 Hermitage, 28 Irish, 29 Page, 30 Here and now.

Down: 1 Buck, 2 Lamplight, 3 Octet, 4 Nervous, 5 Soprano, 7 Easel, 8 Pedestrian, 9 Leashing, 14 Archbishop, 16 Maintain, 18 Intuition, 20 Sea kale, 21 Relieve, 23 Sprig, 25 Reign, 26 Show.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

FSTIH

UBDTO

SUUJTN

ZIFLZE

Come on! Where are you? You're as tough to catch as the others.
4/21
THE ANGLER SAW ONE LAST MINNOW LEFT IN HIS BAIT BUCKET, SO HE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FORTY CYNIC DEFIED THRASH
Answer: After the sergeant told him to stop slouching, the private was going to — STAND CORRECTED

Helmetless rider in hospital after branch falls on him

Bengaluru: A 29-year-old HR executive from a private firm was critically injured after a tree branch fell on him while he was riding his two-wheeler near 16th Main Road on Brahma Chaitanya Mandira Road, under the Hanumanthanagar police station limits, on Sunday afternoon. The victim, Akshay Shivram, a resident of Srinivasa Nagar, is unmarried and lives with his parents. The incident occurred when Akshay was returning home after buying meat. A tree branch fell on him, causing him to lose control of the vehicle and rammed a parked car. Police said he was not wearing a helmet at the time and sustained critical injuries. He was rushed to a local hospital and was later referred to another hospital for surgery.Police added that no FIR has been registered yet, and they have only received a medico-legal case report.

FATHERHOOD JOY

A father carries his toddler on his shoulders in Cubbon Park, Bengaluru. Father's Day was celebrated on Sunday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

BELAGAVI CRIME

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR HELPS COPS CRACK MURDER CASE

No CCTV footage, no witnesses, no mobile tower location data to help case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

IN a shocking case that highlights the unexpected role of animals in solving crimes, the murder of a shepherd in Hukkeri taluk was cracked, thanks not to technology but to a herd of goats and two loyal dogs.

The month-old mystery was unravelled when the animals' behaviour raised key questions that eventually led police to the culprit, the victim's younger brother. Belagavi District Superintendent of Police Dr Bhimashankar Guled said a team led by Yamakanmardi inspector Javed Mushapuri, PSI S K Mannikeri, and others worked tirelessly to crack the case.

The victim, Rayappa Suresh Kamati (28), a resident of Hattialur village, was found murdered on May 8 around 6.30 p.m. He had gone to graze around 60 goats earlier that day. His body bore signs of a brutal attack, with chilli powder found in his eyes. The murder is believed to have occurred between 1.30 pm and 6.30 pm.

There was no CCTV footage, no mobile tower location data, and no eyewitnesses, leaving police with no conventional leads. But a small tip from local villagers, coupled with a puzzling detail about the animals' behaviour, turned the investigation around.

On the day of the murder, two of Rayappa's dogs were found sitting loyally by his body, but the entire herd of goats had returned home on their own. This raised a critical question, how had the goats crossed the canal near the crime scene without their shepherd?

Police recreated the scene. They brought the same goats and dogs back to the spot where Rayappa's body was found, and asked his younger brother, Basavaraj Suresh Kamati (24), to lie in the same place. The animals refused to leave him, even after hours.

This unusual behaviour suggested that the goats must have been led home by someone familiar. With suspicion narrowing in on close family members, police soon uncovered growing tension between Rayappa and Basavaraj, who had frequent disputes, because Basavaraj was being forced to help with goat herding while he wanted to pursue other work.

During questioning, Basavaraj admitted to the murder.

Health dept to switch to app-based attendance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

HEALTH institutions across Karnataka will switch to a mobile-based attendance system for staff, replacing the existing Aadhaar-enabled biometric devices from July 1. The state has issued an order mandating the rollout of the Karnataka Attendance Management System (KAMS) across the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

The move aims to address recurring issues with the current hardware-based system, including high maintenance costs, limited coverage in the field and remote locations, and frequent technical breakdowns.

The mobile-based system will use Aadhaar-enabled face authentication, enabling attendance tracking across more than 12,000 healthcare institutions without the need for physical infrastructure.

Department officials believe the shift will not only reduce operational costs but also enable better attendance monitoring and provide greater flexibility for field staff. Officials at all levels, from district surgeons to divisional directors, have been instructed to ensure the system is implemented by the deadline.

Man nabbed for illegal sale of railway e-tickets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Satellite Goods Terminal, Whitefield, arrested a man for the unauthorised procurement and sale of railway e-tickets.

On Friday, an RPF team raided a firm in Narasapura, Kolar district, and found the man engaged in the illegal activity. He was issued a summons under Section 180B of the Railways Act, 1989, and during the inquiry, he admitted to running an unauthorised ticketing business.

According to a press release, the accused used multiple personal IRCTC user IDs to book e-tickets, which he sold to customers on demand, charging a commission of Rs 200–Rs 300 per ticket. He voluntarily handed over the mobile phone that was used. An examination of the device revealed four IRCTC user IDs and passwords linked to his email, one live e-ticket worth Rs 2,335, and 15 completed journey tickets worth Rs 42,310, a total seizure of Rs 44,645.

After completing legal procedures, the man was booked under Section 143 of the Railways Act at the Bengaluru Cantonment Post and later released on a self-surety bail bond. The raid and investigation were led by sub-inspector Venkatesh Murthy and his team.

Man out on bail in attempt-to-murder case killed; 2 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 26-year-old man, recently released on bail in an attempt-to-murder case, was killed hours after walking out of Bengaluru Central Prison. The police arrested the two accused, who were shot in the legs after they allegedly attacked police personnel on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Vijay. The accused, Deepu (28) and Arun (27), are all residents of JJ Nagar. According to police, the murder took place on Saturday night in Janata Colony, JJ Nagar. Arun and Deepu allegedly chased Vijay through the locality, and stabbed him before fleeing. Vijay, who was bleeding profusely, was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Based on a tip-off, the duo was traced to Rajarajeshwari Nagar. When they allegedly tried to attack the police and flee, the JJ Nagar police inspector fired a warning shot in the air before shooting them in the legs. Both the accused, along with a police constable injured in the incident, were admitted to hospital. They are out of danger, police said. According to preliminary probe, there had been a longstanding animosity between Arun and Vijay. A few months ago, the two had clashed, and Vijay had stabbed Arun. He was arrested by the Kalasipalya police on charges of attempted murder and was jailed.

Arun, allegedly seeking revenge, is believed to have killed him. However, while speeding along the highway near Gejjalagere in Maddur taluk, Manjunath lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a road divider. Passersby who witnessed the accident rushed him to a hospital in Maddur and informed the police. Upon reaching the hospital, police began questioning Manjunath about the vehicle and the circumstances of the accident. His vague and inconsistent answers raised suspicion. After further interrogation, Manjunath eventually admitted to stealing the scooter.

A case has been registered at the Mandya Central Police Station, and further investigation is underway.

EXPRESS READ

Undertrial assaulted inside Shivamogga central jail

Shivamogga: An undertrial prisoner was assaulted inside Shivamogga Central Prison, and the incident was recorded on a mobile phone and circulated on social media. Based on a complaint filed by the prison's chief superintendent, an FIR has been registered at Tunganagar Police Station. The assault occurred on Saturday at Cell No. 28 of the Kumudvathi block, where five fellow undertrial inmates allegedly attacked the victim, identified as Kiran. He had been lodged in the prison the previous night in connection with a case registered at Bhadravathi Rural police station. The accused are Parashuram alias Chingari (27), Pradeep V alias Mudaliar (21), Appu Naika alias Appu (21), Hunumath Naika (22), and Shabarish (21). The accused reportedly used an Android mobile phone to film the assault and shared the video via WhatsApp. The video later went viral. Following the video's circulation, prison authorities conducted a search and seized a Redmi Android phone. In his complaint, chief superintendent Ranganath P requested police to investigate how the mobile phone, banned inside prison premises, reached the accused, and to identify those responsible for smuggling it in.

6 months on, missing case solved, girl found buried

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

Gadag police have cracked a murder case six months after the incident. It has come to light that a young girl, reported missing by her family on January 12 this year, was allegedly killed and buried in a field by her estranged lover, who wanted to marry her. The police exhumed the body from the burial site and have sent it for forensic examination.

Satish Hiremath and Madhushree Angadi, both residents of Narayanpur village, had been in a relationship for four years. However, their families opposed their marriage.

In an attempt to keep her away from Satish, Madhushree's family sent her to her uncle's house in Gadag town. However, Satish went there and took her away on his bike.When they reached Narayanpur, the two reportedly had a quarrel. In a fit of rage, Satish allegedly strangled Madhushree with her veil and buried her body in a field.

The turning point in the investigation came when an eyewitness told police he had seen the couple together on December 16. Based on this lead, police examined CCTV footage, which confirmed the sighting. Satish was picked up for questioning but initially denied having met Madhushree. However, upon further interrogation, he confessed to killing her and led police to the burial site, where her remains were exhumed.

Gadag Superintendent of Police B S Nemagouda said, "The CCTV footage helped us crack the case. Our police team has done a commendable job and will be rewarded."

Aptus Finance India Private Limited
8B, Doshi Towers, 205, Poonamalle High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.Telephone: 044-4565 0003

Possession Notice
Appendix IV (Under Rule8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Aptus Finance India Private Ltd** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued **demand notice dated 18--02--2025 calling upon the borrowers 1.Mrs. Bhagya, 2.Mr. Chowdamurthy and 3.Mr. Adaveeshaiah to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being for LAP - Construction in Loan Account No: TYELAH0040037 of Rs. 7,18,889/-(Rupees Seven Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Nine Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken "Symbolic Possession" of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule **on this 10th day of June 2025.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Aptus Finance India Private Ltd for an amount of **Rs. 7,45,473/-(Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three Only) as on 28.04.2025** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:-

All That piece and Parcel of Immovable property bearing E-khata No.150300302400220057, Property No.107/139/1, Situated at, Khasaghatta Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Measuring East West: 6.096 Mtr, North South: 13.716000000000001 Mtr, Total 83.61 Sq Mtr, **Bonded On. Boundaries: North By:** Property belongs to Gangamma **South By:** Road **East By:** property belongs to Anjinamma **West By:** Property belongs to Gangamma

Date: 10.06.2025 | **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: KHASAGHATTA | **Aptus Finance India Private Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public That is My Client **Sri. C.KRISHNAPPA** S/o Late Chinnappa, is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule properties from its owners. I hereby Call upon the Public at if any one having Rights, Title, Interest or Claim Over the Schedule Properties Shall file or furnish their objections along with Supporting Documents to the Under Signed or to My Client **within 15 Days** From the Date of Issue Of this Notice. Despite of this Notice No Claims or Objections Received by me and my Client, then my Client Will Proceeded to Purchase the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

ITEM No.1. All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land in **Survey No.249/2, Measuring an extent of 01 Acre 10.08 Guntas (One Acre Ten and Half Guntas)** Situated at: **M.B Halli** Village, Maluru Hobli, Channapattana Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the.
East by : Land in SY No.262/1 belongs to B.S.Mahadevaiah,
West by : Government Drain (Sarkari Halla),
North by : Land in SY No.249/1 belongs to Madaiah (Papanna),
South by : Land in SY No.249/3 belongs to Vendors (Property in Item No.2).

ITEM No.2. All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land in **Survey No.249/3,** (Old SY No.249/1) **Measuring an Extent of 00 Acre 30.08 Guntas (Thirty and Half Guntas)** Situated at: **M.B Halli** Village, Maluru Hobli, Channapattana Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the.
East by : Land in SY No.262/1 belongs to B.S.Mahadevaiah,
West by : Government Drain (Sarkari Halla),
North by : Land in SY No.249/2 belongs to Vendors (Property in Item No.1),
South by : Land in SY No.249/4 belongs to Shivamade Gowda.B.M.

ITEM No.3. All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Dry Land in **Survey No.249/4, (Old SY No.249/1) Measuring an Extent of 00 Acre 30.08 Guntas (Thirty and Half Guntas)** Situated at: **M.B Halli** Village, Maluru Hobli, Channapattana Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the.
East by : Land in SY No.262/1 belongs to B.S.Mahadevaiah,
West by : Government Drain (Sarkari Halla),
North by : Land in SY No.249/3 belongs to Ningamma, M.Suresh and Sumashankaregowda.M,
South by : Land in SY No.249/5 belongs to Vendors (Property in Item No.1).

ITEM No.4. All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Dry Land in **Survey No.249/5, (Old SY No.249/2) Measuring an extent of 01 Acre 10.08 Guntas (One Acre Ten and Half Guntas)** Situated at: **M.B Halli** Village, Maluru Hobli, Channapattana Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the.
East by : Land in SY No.262/1 belongs to B.S.Mahadevaiah and Land in SY No.262/8 belongs to Sarojamma,
West by : Government Drain (Sarkari Halla),
North by : Land in SY No.249/4 belongs to Vendors (Property in Item No.2).
South by : Land in SY No.250/1 belongs to Somashekar.B.S.
Contact No: 9902001259, C.KRISHNAPPA.

Sd/- Kiran Kumar.R, Advocate Mob: 95382 98914.
No.36, Gunduru Village, Bidarahalli Hobali, Virgonagar Post,Bangalore-560049.
Place: Channapattana. Date: 16-06-2025.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: 605/EEE/PD/AEE(O)/HVR/2025-26/186-91 Date:12.06.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

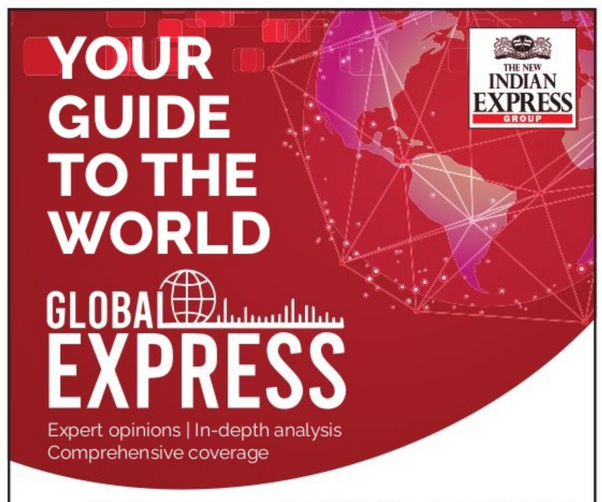
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited is energizing new 110kV lines. The details are as below,

(1) 110KV SC line on DC towers using Lynx conductor from 110KV Tiluvalli Sub station to newly constructed 110KV Sub station at **Haunsbhavi** for a distance of 15.155 Kms in Hirekerur Taluk, Haveri District **on or after 20.06.2025.** The said line is passing through Tiluvalli, Dhummihala, Attikatti, Sudambi, Madalura, Hireanaji, Thumarikoppa, Chinnamulagunda, Chikkanaji, Haunsbhavi & Surrounding areas.

(2) 110KV LILO line using Lynx conductor from existing 110KV Ranebennur-Hirekerur SC line to newly constructed 110KV Sub station at **Hullatti** for a distance of 3.758 Kms in Rattihalli Taluk, Haveri District **on or after 20.06.2025.** The said line is passing through Hiredachi, Chikkayadachi and Hullatti villages and surrounding areas.

The above said Transmission lines will be energized **on or after 20.06.2025.** The general public residing near the said newly constructed 110KV lines and surrounding villages are requested to keep away from this power line towers, not to tie animals to the towers and not to throw green sticks, wires, tree branches etc., on the lines and not to climb the towers. If anybody does these things, it will be most dangerous to their lives or to their animals. Public of the above villages are requested to take utmost care. KPTCL will not be responsible for any accidents due to the above mentioned causes.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele),
Projects Division, KPTCL, Haveri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Possession Notice Appendix IV (Under Rule8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the SecurityInterest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon theborrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice beingwithin60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and thepublic in general that the undersigned has taken **"Symbolic Possession"** of the property describedherein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No.	Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of the Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice Date	Possession Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	Date and Type of Possession Taken
1.	AYELAH00482 81	1.Mr. Muniraju, 2.Mrs. Kempamma and 3.Mr.Thimmarayapppa	All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing V.P.khatha No.37/37 ,portion of Sy No. 43/40 situated at Avathi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devenahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District presently comes under the limits of Avathi Grama panchayatha measuring East to West 23 feet and North to South 73 feet in all totally measuring 1679 Sq.ft and **bounded On:. Boundaries: North By:** Property belongs to Narayanappa, **South By:** House belongs to Munithimarayappa **East By:** Remaining portion of Sy No. 43/40 belongs to thimarayapppa **West By:** Road	28--10--2024	**Rs. 5,52,193/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Ninety Three Only) **as on 28.04.2025**	11-06-2025 Symbolic Possession
2.	AYELAH01271 13	1.Mrs. Manjulamma, 2.Mr. Bairareddy, 3.Mr. Uday and 4.Mr. Manjuantha Reddy	All that peace and percel of immovable property bearing Janjar No.11/1, RDPR 152800602200220012, Form 11, Rule 30(7), Situated at, Kuttanadahalli Village, Devaramalluru Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Sidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapur District. Measuring bEast West : 12.192 Mtr, Nort south : 9.144 Mtr, Total 111.48 Sq Mtr,. **Boundaries: North By:** Property belongs to Chikkanarayanappa **South By:** Property belongs to muddukrishnappa and road **East By:** oWN LAND **West By:** Prperty belongs to Prakash	23--01--2025	**Rs. 10,59,846/-** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Six Only) **as on 28.04.2025**	11-06-2025 Symbolic Possession
3.	AYELAH01367 26	1.Mr. Govindaraju and 2.Mr. Vishalakshi	All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property Bearing Khata No.103, Property No.124, situated at Thirumagondanahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Measuring East West: 38ft, North West: 40ft, Total 1520 Sq Ft, bounded on:. **Boundaries: North By:** Road and Remaining property **South By:** Property belongs to Jyothamma **East By:** House belongs to Hanumantharayappa **West By:** Property belongs to Baiyanna	18--02--2025	**Rs. 10,03,597/-** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven Only) **as on 28.04.2025**	10-06-2025 Symbolic Possession
4.	AYELAH00868 62	1.Mrs. Lakshmi and 2.Mr. Babu	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing old Khatha No.13/2/419/2, Khatha Sl No.419, Assessment Register No.13/2, Situated at Alahalli village, Doddaballapur, presently comes under Gram Panchayath, measuring East to west 30 and North to South 17 1/2 in all measuring 525 Sq ft and **bounded on:. Boundaries: North By:** Property belongs to B M Karunnakara Murty **South By:** Plot belongs to M Vedavathi 30 x 17 ½ **East By:** Property belongs to Natarajappa **West By:** Road	18--02--2025	**Rs. 8,29,117/-** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventeen Only) **as on 28.04.2025**	10-06-2025 Symbolic Possession
5.	AYELAH00870 59 & AYELAH01149 95	1.Mr. Rajanna, 2.Mr. Sudeep & 3.Mrs. Sujatha	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Property No.16/47, Khatha No.150300200501100028, Situated at Lingadheeragolahalli , Devanahalli presently comes under Gram Panchayath, measuring East to West 13.14mtrs(43ft) North to South 19.81mtrs(65ft)in all measuring 260.30 chaurse mtrs and **bounded on: Boundaries North By:** Property belongs to Srinivas **South By:** Government Road **East By:** Property belongs to Ramesh **West By:** Property belongs to Srinivas & N Suresh	18--02--2025	**Rs. 11,24,074/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Seventy Four Only) & **Rs. 3,47,103/-** (Rupees Three Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred Three Only) **as on 28.04.2025**	11-06-2025 Symbolic Possession

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited** The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: BANGALORE | **Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited**

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STAMPEDE & SCAPEGOATS: THE MANY FACTORS AND SYSTEMIC FAILURE OF JUNE 4

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

VICTORY has many fathers, but tragedy is an orphan. There are many claimants to the maiden IPL triumph of Royal Challengers Bengaluru, but no one has so far owned up responsibility for the stampede outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium during the RCB victory celebration on June 4, which claimed 11 lives, including two minors. Was it merely a question of crowd control and leadership? In both respects, Bengaluru was found wanting.

The obvious fall guy is the police. The June 4 stampede exposed the deeper issues of poor coordination, inadequate planning, and severe manpower shortage in the police department, with over 18,000 posts lying vacant across Karnataka. The police, who must be prepared for any situation, denied permission for the event, citing short notice. The government, after coming under severe attack, suspended five top cops, including Police Commissioner B Dayananda, which was unprecedented.

The government's move has kicked up a debate whether it was the fault of the government or the police. The government was also accused of making the police scapegoats. So, whose fault is it? Or is no one at fault? Should the unsuspecting victims be blamed for their faith in the system and wanting to be a part of the victory celebration?

VIEW FROM THE PAVILION

Police cannot choose their duty

A retired DGP, who has served as Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that regardless of the situation, it is the police department's responsibility to make necessary arrangements.

"Police cannot choose what they will or won't do. They cannot say they don't have the manpower, so they can't handle it. No matter the strength or limitations, police have to take care of the situation. If there's an attack in Yelahanka, can the police say they won't go?" he said, adding that the entire situation began on the morning of June 3, and there were already indications that something big was going to happen.

"No department ever works full staff. There are always vacancies. But that cannot be an excuse. If a prominent politician or celebrity dies suddenly, can police say, 'Don't take the body out for three days because we don't have bandobast?' Police must act. In case of a major bandobast, the force can be mobilised from other locations. It doesn't take more than four hours to mobilize additional forces. We have CRPF, KSRP and Home Guards personnel. If needed, police forces from neighbouring districts like Tumakuru, Ramanagara and Bengaluru Rural can also be brought in."

BIG PICTURE

Taking a dig at the situation, he said: "People who are unaware of the internal systems can argue otherwise, but the reality for insiders is different. The officers in charge did not initiate the process properly. Did they send requisitions to other departments or just claim they didn't have manpower? If they didn't have enough staff, they should have mobilised it. In the worst-case scenario, home guards stationed in the city could have helped manage crowds. It wasn't a hostile crowd, it was a celebratory one."

He pointed out that in major gatherings, large display screens are usually installed to manage crowd flow. "In a victory parade, the crowd keeps moving. People come, see the players, feel happy, and leave. There was no violence. It was not a riot." The former commissioner added that scrutiny was one-sided. "All the questioning is happening from one side. A judicial inquiry will probe why the force was not mobilized, or basic crowd control was arranged."

POLICE STORY

1,11,330 SANCTIONED STRENGTH

92,749 ACTUAL STRENGTH

18,581 POSTS VACANT

The police-public ratio in Karnataka is 165.04 per 1 lakh population, which is very low compared to the national average of 196.88

VACANT POSTS

6,591 POLICE CONSTABLES

819 HEAD CONSTABLES

2,107 ARMED POLICE CONSTABLES

3,830 KARNATAKA RESERVE POLICE CONSTABLES

(Source: Bureau of Police Research and Development)

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka urged the state government to convene an emergency session of the Legislature to discuss the recent stampede tragedy at M Chinnaswamy Stadium. In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ashoka pressed serious questions about public safety, crowd control, and the organisation of sports and other events

MISSING IN ACTION

Staff crunch: Over 18k vacancies in state

AS many as 18,581 posts in the police department are vacant.

Former DG&IGP ST Ramesh said a work study conducted by an NGO with inputs from him, showed that police stations in Bengaluru were woefully short of manpower.

"We selected two police stations randomly in the city to study manpower requirement as to how many officers and men are needed for various tasks in a police station. The study showed the sanctioned strength was totally inadequate, and on top of that, there are many vacancies. Senior police officers have repeatedly flagged the problem with governments requesting that these vacancies be filled," he said.

He added that the city's jurisdiction and population have increased in geometric proportions but augmentation of the police force has hardly kept pace, irrespective of the party in power.

Former DG&IGP Ajai Kumar Singh said: "Shortage of police personnel is a perennial problem. If that shortage is affecting the functioning of the force, recruitment should take place regularly and systematically."

It is ironic that CM Siddaramaiah claimed he was 'invited' to the event, while the reality was that he was himself the host. Naturally, he cannot be an invitee to his own function. RCB and the Governor were the invitees. The CM also claimed the stampede occurred at the stadium, but it is fair to surmise that if there was no event at the Vidhana Soudha, the massive gathering at the KSCA would not have happened and the question of stampede would not have arisen
— ST Ramesh, former DG&IGP

VIEW FROM THE SLIPS

Officers' objections ignored, and the usual fall guys

"VIDHANA Soudha is the seat of government. Normally, government functions are held there and no private event is allowed. So, how was it chosen as the venue for the RCB felicitation event? RCB is a private franchise with profit as its objective. Obviously, it must be the government's decision to host the event on the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha," DG&IGP ST Ramesh said.

"The government consists of the ruling political establishment and senior bureaucracy, headed by the chief secretary. The police commissioner did not seem to have been consulted before holding the event at Vidhana Soudha. On the contrary, the objection of DCP, Vidhana Soudha security, was ignored, and the police commissioner and his four colleagues were made scapegoats," he added. It is ironic that the CM claimed he was 'invited' to the event when he himself was the host, Vidhana Soudha being under him. Naturally, he cannot be an invitee to his own function. RCB and the Governor were the invitees. The CM also claimed the stampede occurred at the stadium, but it is fair to surmise that if there was no event at Vidhana Soudha, the massive gathering at KSCA would not have happened, Ramesh said.

People started moving from Vidhana Soudha towards the stadium, a distance of just about one kilometre.There was never any official approval for the event at the stadium. RCB unilaterally put up a social media post about a celebration and victory parade, which drew people in huge numbers. People attending the Vidhana Soudha event rushed to the stadium to get another glimpse of their heroes, he opined.

Police had not granted permission for the event and the RCB management proceeded on its own. "The suspension order of police officials states they were suspended for not refusing permission in writing. This is purely a technicality. Was there written permission? In the absence of written permission, the request is deemed to have been rejected. RCB management did what they wanted, considering themselves above the law," he said.

Ramesh also criticised the way permission was handled. "RCB and KSCA perhaps assumed that since the CM and other senior ministers were organising the felicitation at Vidhana Soudha, permission was unnecessary. Perhaps they didn't even bother to press for police clearance. The DCM is reported to have received the RCB team at HAL airport. Police had no role in any of these developments. Yet they did their best to rescue and help the public after an ugly situation was thrust upon them, but became the fall guy. Police had been refusing permission and raising concerns about the bandobast since June 3, and working round the clock."

Ramesh noted that the all-India civil service and Karnataka civil service conduct rules prevent police officers from going public with their views, which may be seen to go against the government. "Their hands are tied. The force has many issues but cannot raise them in public, yet they're expected to do all the work. No city or district has surplus force to manage extraordinary situations. Normally, police force from neighbouring districts are brought in to manage extraordinary situations."

He said police justifiably sought more time to manage the crowd by holding celebrations after a few days."RCB management was in a hurry since their players were heading abroad. The political class wanted to bask in the reflected glory of the RCB heroes. It was an avoidable tragedy and it all started at Vidhana Soudha," he said.

System was hijacked, police alone cannot be blamed

Shortage of police personnel is a perennial problem. If that shortage is affecting the functioning of the force, recruitment should take place regularly and systematically

Ajai Kumar Singh, former DG&IGP

FORMER DG&IGP Ajai Kumar Singh said he doesn't have insider information about who asked whom or what letters were exchanged, but added that these details will emerge during the inquiry. "From what is visible, it appears the issue doesn't lie solely with the police," he said. "Unfortunately, the official system was hijacked by unofficial functioning, which resulted in administrative failure. On paper, someone may be held responsible, but in reality, the decisions were taken by someone else."

TWENTY20

He added that based on what is available in public domain, there is no documented evidence showing the police made any decisions related to the event. "RCB posted about their victory, and the government announced a felicitation at Vidhana Soudha. There's no indication that the police made or approved this decision. Certainly, blaming police alone is not fair," said Singh.

He questioned the decision-making behind the felicitation: "Who decided to felicitate RCB? It was the government and KSCA. The RCB management was inviting lakhs of people to the event. This led to a huge crowd, that wasn't planned for."

Singh raised concerns about crowd control and preparedness: "If lakhs are being invited, was there enough time to plan logistics and ensure facilities were in place? There was confusion about which gates were to be opened, when they should open, and whether there was adequate medical assistance for the people attending."

Nikhil being groomed to carry party mantle, rebuild JDS base

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

JDS youth leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy, who is being projected as the party's new face, has been tasked with building the party and energising its base with a statewide missed call campaign.

Despite his repeated electoral failures, Nikhil, son of former CM HD Kumaraswamy and grandson of JDS patriarch and former PM HD Deve Gowda, has been elevated within the party, recently taking charge as JDS youth wing president. The party is projecting the young leader as the next big hope.

Nikhil's political journey so far has been marked by three major defeats -- the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Mandya, 2023 Assembly election from Ramanagara, and recent bypoll defeat from Channapatna, a seat vacated by his father.

Yet, rather than being sidelined, Nikhil will take up his new task of connecting with 50 lakh people. "We have assigned a task to our workers. Starting tomorrow, we will visit several districts over two months. We will initially cover around 23 districts and later move to other areas," Nikhil said. This high-visibility campaign is seen as an effort to not just rebuild the JDS network, but also to project Nikhil as a dynamic, grassroots leader with statewide ambitions.

"Nikhil is speaking on important topics although he has won no election," said political analyst BS Murthy. "The JDS launched him as youth president and while his cousins Prajwal and Suraj Revanna are almost out of public life, Nikhil is emerging as the new leader."

"The JDS has not groomed a leader outside the 'first family', which has come back to bite it now. A few decades ago, the Janata Parivar was considered a factory for leaders like MP Prakash and Siddaramaiah, but today it has no visible faces. With no succession plan outside the family, they are left with only Nikhil," Murthy said. The party's strategy reflects a generational shift. With Gowda in his nineties and Kumaraswamy visibly scaling back public engagements, Nikhil appears to be the torchbearer.

Not everyone is convinced. "They want him to be in politics and visible. Being a future CM may sound like a distant dream," cautioned Prof PS Jayaramu, former professor at Bangalore University.

The core question now is whether Karnataka's electorate will view Nikhil as a legitimate contender or just another dynastic experiment. With politics becoming increasingly competitive, the party's future may depend on whether Nikhil transforms from political heir to credible mass leader.

JDS Youth Wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy seeks blessings of his grandfather and party supremo HD Deve Gowda, as his father and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy looks on in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

HDK: KANNADIGAS IN ISRAEL WILL RETURN SAFELY

BENGALURU: Union minister HD Kumaraswamy made a video call to Kannadigas stranded in Israel because of the ongoing conflict. Sharing this on social media, Kumaraswamy said he inquired about their wellbeing and assured them that the matter is being pursued with the MEA to ensure their safe and swift return to India. He also conveyed to them that the Centre, under PM Narendra Modi, is doing everything within its capacity to ensure the safety and welfare of all Indian nationals abroad.

I'M FINE AND READY TO LEAD, SAYS KUMARASWAMY ABOUT HIS HEALTH

BENGALURU: Dismissing rumours about his health, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday affirmed he is strong and ready to lead. He predicted a JDS-BJP alliance victory in the next Assembly election and urged party-workers to counter misinformation confidently, asserting that the alliance would form the next government in Karnataka. Calling upon the Congress government in the state to release a white paper detailing the financial status of Kalyana Karnataka, Kumaraswamy questioned the administration's development record in the region, asking how much funding was allocated and how it was spent. "What has actually changed in Kalyana Karnataka?" he questioned, addressing a JDS event in Bengaluru, while also targeting AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge for his long tenure without significant regional progress. Kumaraswamy criticised the state's focus on infrastructure without addressing core issues, like lack of doctors in hospitals. He pointed to the failure of Bengaluru's infrastructure as evidence of misplaced priorities. He accused the Congress of administrative failures, referencing the KPSC appointment issues and the stampede incident at M Chinnaswamy stadium. Questioning the impact of guarantee schemes like Gruha Lakshmi, he argued that governance requires more than just cash handouts.

Dalit CM not on cards till 2028: Satish Jarkiholi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kalaburagi

THERE will be no more discussion on a Dalit chief minister in Karnataka, and the issue will be looked into after the 2028 Assembly elections, said PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi here on Sunday.

Reacting to BJP leaders' criticism that the Congress government is not implementing the five guarantees properly, he said the opposition parties are making the allegation for the last two years and will continue with it for another three years. People are happy with the guarantees and the government is also implementing several development works, he justified.

Jarkiholi asked people to look at the budget presented and implemented by the previous Basavaraj Bommai government and the one by the Siddaramaiah government.

He said Karnataka is giving Rs 2 lakh crore as GST to the Union government, but in return getting only Rs 37,000 crore. "The Centre is utilising our share of GST to build the Ganga-Yamuna Highway which would benefit UP and Bihar," he alleged.

On BJP MLC AH Vishwanath's statement that the chief minister would be changed in September, Jarkiholi declined to comment.

But Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa said that as per his knowledge, the Congress High Command is not proposing to replace Siddaramaiah.

In a tongue-in-cheek commented, Mahadevappa said he is not aware of the Congress high command informing Vishwanath about the change in leadership. "Siddaramaiah is the chief minister and will continue to be the CM," he added.

On BJP president BY Vijayendra's allegations that the CM and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar were responsible for the stampede at Chinnaswamy Stadium that claimed 11 lives on June 4, he termed the accusation "childish". "The incident is deeply painful and should not have happened. Judicial and magisterial inquiries have been ordered, and we must wait for their findings to know who is responsible," he said.

"Similar incidents have occurred in Uttar Pradesh and also a plane crashed in Ahmedabad. Did anyone demand Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation over those incidents? Politics should not be involved in such tragedies," he added.

Two more people died in the diarrhoea outbreak in Odisha's Jajpur district, with over 200 people still undergoing treatment, officials said on Sunday. With this, seven people have died in the outbreak, which was first reported on June 9, Additional District Medical Officer Prakash Chandra Bal said

2025 COULD BE COFFEE'S BEST YEAR YET; PRICES TO STABILISE

EXPORTS JUMPED FROM $700 MILLION TO $2 BILLION IN 2024; PRICES HAVE ALREADY REACHED HISTORIC HIGH: OFFICIAL

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA, which produces over 70% of India's coffee, is heading into what could be its most favourable season yet — even better than the past three years that saw record-breaking exports.

Officials at the Coffee Board say this year's flowering was the most ideal in recent times due to perfectly timed blossom and backing showers. With exports having jumped from $700 million to $2 billion between 2021 and 2024, the state is now closely watching how the monsoon will be. If rains remain well-distributed, growers can expect strong yields, better bean quality, and stable prices, officials told *TNIE*.

"This year's pre-monsoon conditions have been perfect — better than even the record-setting years we've just had," a senior official from the Coffee Board said, adding that the early stages of the crop cycle, especially flowering and fruit setting, are crucial in determining both yield and quality and this year, everything has aligned so far.In coffee cultivation, the flowering stage usually takes place in February and March. During this time, timely and balanced rains — called blossom and backing showers — are critical as they help trigger flowering and support fruit development, the official explained.

Prices expected to stabilise, not rise further

Shivalinga Kamath from Coorg Coffee Growers told *TNIE* that further price increases are unlikely. "Prices have already reached a historic high. It's unrealistic to expect another jump. But even if they stabilise at current levels, that's a good return," he said, pointing out that if prices rise too much, it could lower consumption— especially at retail level, where prices have already increased by about 200%. "Too much increase will push consumers away from coffee, and even if prices drop later, people won't necessarily return to it. That's not good for the long-term health of the value chain," Kamath said, adding that if Brazil's output rises and global supply increases, prices could fall sharply. But if demand has already dropped by then, the losses will be harder to recover," he highlighted.

Planters want branding like Nandini for coffee

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

TAKING a cue from the success of Nandini in the dairy sector, coffee growers in Karnataka are pushing for a similar branding model for the state's coffee. The Karnataka Growers' Federation (KGF) is working on a proposal to create a unified brand called 'Karnataka Coffee' to give the state's produce an identity in both national and international markets.

Federation officials confirmed that preliminary meeting have already been held with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, and they are hopeful that the proposal will be taken forward in the coming days. Despite contributing nearly 70 per cent of India's total coffee production, Karnataka's coffee continues to be sold without a unified label which can represent varieties produced in the state. Coffee growers believe that while the region's coffee is known for its flavour and aroma, without proper branding, it loses value in larger market.

> We still don't have a common brand that represents our coffee
>
> —H Shivanna, KGF President

"Karnataka is the largest coffee-producing state in the country, but we still don't have a common brand that represents our coffee," KGF President H Shivanna said, adding that if the state creates one, it will improve market visibility and directly benefit growers, specifically in districts like Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru and Hassan. He stressed that the idea is to follow a cooperative model similar to Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), which helped make Nandini a wider brand. "The Nandini model also ensured fair pricing for farmers and made distribution marketing more efficient. We want to apply the same structure to coffee," Shivanna said.

Federation officials pointed out that creating a state-backed brand could help bring attention to long-pending issues faced by planters, including frequent human-elephant conflict, pressure from forest officials, confusion around deemed forest classifications, and the need to extend land lease periods for growers.

DIVINE MARCH

Ponnin Seeveli procession held as part Vaishakholsavam at Mahadeva temple in Kottiyoor in Kerala on Sunday | EXPRESS

Ban traffic on Kumta–Sirsi road: Residents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IN another incident, Mahadev Narayan Devadiga (50) was washed away at Gulmi Bhilalkhand area. His body was recovered on Sunday morning and handed over to his family members.

Manjunath Naik died when he fell into a pit filled with water near his house at Shirali-Mallari in Bhatkal taluk. His death is being investigated. High-velocity winds and heavy rain continued to buffet Bhatkal on Sunday, as houses suffered damage and many roofs flew away.

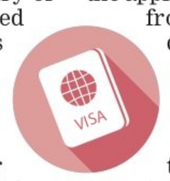
Road-side trees collapsed at many places. Minor landslides were reported on Kumta–Sirsi road and residents are demanding a traffic ban on the stretch.

CCTV footage shows a two-year old near the drain in Bhatkal

After backlash: No delay in issuing passports, says RPO

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

MANY citizens have been complaining over the delay in getting their passports. They reason that after the Ministry of External Affairs launched the e-passports for citizens there has been delay.



Romita D, a student said, she had heard from her seniors and friends that they would get their passport within a couple of days, but she got her's after weeks. "When I would inquire at the helpline, the reply I got was that it was delayed due to technical concerns and will be delivered soon. My passport is different from others," she said.

Similar was the case with Pushpa L, a senior citizen, who was seeking her passport to see her grand children in New Zealand. "My son was overseeing the application and processing from New Zealand. the delay in getting my passport, has had ripple effects," she said.

However officials in the Ministry of External Affairs said that it is not because of the micro-chip that has been included, but due to the load and other technical reasons. As per data from the Karnataka Regional Passport office, on an average in a month around 80,000 passports are issued. There are 23 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras and five Passport Seva Kendras in the state, working on clearing applications, while all e-passports are issued from Bengaluru.

"Following the MEA directions, across India e-passports are being issued from April end. All passports that are issued are e-passports (micro-chip enabled passports). there is no delay in issuing them," said Karnataka Regional Officer, Ajith John Joshua. Earlier these e-passports were limited to diplomats. These electronic micro-chip enabled passports are combined with the paper booklet that was always being issued.

UK fighter makes emergency landing at T'Puram airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

A UK stealth fighter jet made an emergency landing at Trivandrum airport on Saturday night after running low on fuel.

The pilot of the single-seat F-35B Lightning II fighter jet, unable to return to the aircraft carrier stationed in the Indian Ocean due to adverse weather, requested permission to land after several go-arounds, officials confirmed. The landing took place shortly after 9.30pm.

The jet was safely escorted to the airport, with authorities making all necessary arrangements for a smooth landing. No technical issues or damage were reported. The aircraft was parked at the general aviation terminal, near the domestic terminal, until Sunday night.

The F-35B is part of the HMS Prince of Wales, the UK's aircraft carrier currently stationed about 100 nautical miles off the Indian coast in the Indian Ocean. The Indian Air Force (IAF) facilitated the landing, calling it a routine diversion. In a statement, the IAF officials said, "This is a standard occurrence for an F-35."

F-35 B fighter jet at T'Puram airport | EXPRESS

State Banks' staff union holds 15th Gen Council Meeting

Bengaluru: State Banks' Staff Union (Karnataka), affiliated to All India State Bank of India Staff Federation (AISBISF), held its 15th General Council Meeting on Saturday with Justice S Vaidyanathan, former Chief Justice of the High Court, of Meghalaya and senior advocate, Supreme Court, as the chief guest. L Chandrashekar, general secretary, AISBISF, and National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE), and Pankaj Kaushik, president, AISBISF, addressed the participants. "Representing more than 99% of the clerical and subordinate cadre in the state, our union is the sole negotiating body with the management of the bank," a release said. At the meeting, recruitment of local/region-based clerical staff in banks to serve customers better and also to recruit adequate number of clerical staff, outsourcing of regular clerical jobs of the bank, abolition of contract labour who are engaged for cleaning and sweeping in banks and to regularise all existing temporary subordinate employees, scrapping of NPS, and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, among others were discussed.

IIHR CREATES MILLIONAIRE FARMERS

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Hirehalli (Tumakuru)

FOUR humble farmers of Tumakuru district, with just one unique plant each inherited from their forefathers, had never imagined that these plants would make them millionaires. This will be sweet to the ears of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had promised to double the income of farmers.

Courtesy, the Central Horticultural Experiment Station(CHES), Hirehalli, of the ICAR-IIHR which has scripted the farmer-led conservation efforts. The 'lucky' farmers were projected as role models at a workshop -- 'Linking Biodiversity for Livelihood Security through Protection of Farmers' Varieties in Fruit Crops' -- at CHES on Sunday. The event was part of an effort to promote protection and sustainable utilisation of traditional fruit crop diversity.

The jackfruit varieties, 'Siddu' and 'Shankara', tamarind 'Lakshmana' and jamun 'Nirantara Kumar jamun' were identified and supported with technical intervention to demonstrate how unique they were in terms of taste and medicinal value among others. These unique plants are being multiplied through grafting and have been commercialised. They have sold millions over the years.

Through a benefit-sharing model, ICAR-IIHR paid SS Paramesha (Siddu) Rs 1 crore over five years, Shankaraiah (Shankara) Rs 21 lakh over 2 years and Lakshamanappa (Lakshmana tamarind) Rs 6.5 lakh over one year. The farmers on their own have also marketed their saplings to hit a jackpot and Paramesha has earned over Rs 5 crore. Soon, IIHR will give 'Nirantara Kumar jamun' farmer his share.

Paschimavahini to get specific spots for asthi visarjan

BK LAKSHMIKANTHA @ Mysuru

THE Cauvery river, the vital lifeline for several districts in Karnataka, is losing its pristine condition at Srirangapatna because of lack of a proper mechanism to control pollution, particularly that caused by religious rituals such as asthi visarjan (immersion of ashes of the deceased), which has been a long-standing tradition.

Authorities have now initiated steps and drawn up plans to create designated sites to conduct rituals and to divert underground drainage (UGD) water to prevent the river from getting contaminated.

Thousands of devotees from across the country visit the sacred sites of Paschimavahini, Sangama, Gosai Ghat and Snana Ghatta at Srirangapatna to perform last rites and other rituals. The river here is regarded as holy as it is a confluence and immersion of ashes is believed to help departed souls attain moksha (liberation). Incidentally, the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi too were immersed at Paschimavahini.

But while performing these rituals, people throw garlands, clay pots and other puja items into the river, greatly polluting the waterbody. As there is no oversight or enforcement, these rituals are conducted at different places along the riverbank, forcing the civic body to clean up the river and its banks regularly.

Raising concerns over unchecked rituals, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha district convener Kiranguru Papu aka Mohan Kumar has long campaigned for restricting them to designated sites. "Paschimavahini and Sangama have specific spots where these rituals were traditionally conducted for centuries. But now an increasing number of visitors from other states conduct these at random locations, severely polluting the river, which is a source of drinking and irrigation water. Because of our persistent protests, the authorities have now initiated measures to curb pollution," he said.

RITUAL READY

Srirangapatna Town Municipal Council Chief Officer M Rajanna confirmed that immersion rituals are identified as a major source of pollution in the river.

"A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in the high court. Later, the deputy commissioner formed a committee comprising district-level officers to plan the development of proper infrastructure to address the problem. A tender has been floated to prepare a Detailed Project Report," Rajanna said.

Under the new initiative, dedicated facilities will be created at all four key sites, Paschimavahini, Sangama, Gosai Ghat and Snana Ghatta. These facilities will include systems to prevent ash from mixing directly with river water, along with infrastructure to remove silt. Each site will be developed at an approximate cost of Rs 1 crore. Measures have also been taken to address sewage inflow. "A new underground drainage system is being constructed at Rs 16.5 crore to prevent town sewage from entering the river. This work is progressing and will be completed soon," he said.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department

Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001.

E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following properties mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of the undermentioned security debts due to the Bank, together with further interest and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors mentioned herein below :

PART - 1

Name of the Borrowers: No.1) M/s. Sree Jyothi Engineering Works, No.292, 1st C Cross, Kasthuri Badavane, Rajagopala Nagar, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560058. No.2) Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Mr. Dasna Murthy, No.292, 1st C Cross, Near Maruthi Theatre, Kasturi Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560058. No.3) Mr. R. Dasna Murthy, S/o. Mr. Rajgopal, No.292, 1st C Cross, Near Maruthi Theatre, Kasturi Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560058.

Outstanding Liability Amount : Rs.96,72,041/- (Rupees Ninety Six Lakh Seventy Two Thousand and Forty One only) as on **11-06-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **12-06-2025** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors.

Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Mr. Dasna Murthy) All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.74/79/120, Khatha No.79/120, Eastern Portion of Site No.79, Situated at 1st "C" Cross, Kasturi Layout, Rajagopal Nagar, Bangalore Urban District, previously Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under BBMP limits, Ward No.70 and bounded on : East by : Remaining portion of Site No.79, West by : Site No.78, North by : 30 Feet Road and South by : Property No.87. Total Measuring 600 Sq.ft. (15 x 40).	₹ 42,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakh only)	09-07-2025 at 01.00 p.m.
Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Mr. Dasna Murthy) All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.2, Assessment No.120, Laggere Khatha No.120/2, Situated at Bangalore Uttara Taluk, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Dasarahalli, comes under BBMP Limits Situated at 1st "C" Cross, Kasturi Layout, Rajagopal Nagar, Bangalore Urban District, previously Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under BBMP limits Ward No.70. Measuring : East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet. Totally measuring 1,200 Sq.ft. along with RCC Roofed House and bounded on : East by : Site No.03, West by : Site No.01, North by : Road and South by : Site No.07.	₹ 84,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Four Lakh only)	09-07-2025 at 01.00 p.m.

PART - 2

Name of the Borrowers: No.1) M/s. Vision Resources, No.E-161, Shakthi Nagar, Behind TTK Factory, Udaya Nagar, D.V. Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560016. No.2) Mr. R. Venkatesh, S/o. C Ranganathan, No.E-161, Shakthi Nagar, Behind TTK Factory, Udaya Nagar, D.V. Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560016. No.3) Mrs. Lalitha Venkatesh, W/o. R Venkatesh, No.E-161, Shakthi Nagar, Behind TTK Factory, Udaya Nagar, D.V. Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560016.

Outstanding Liability Amount : Rs.50,27,713/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirteen only) as on **22-04-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **23-04-2025** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors.

Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
(Property Owned by Mr. R. Venkatesh, S/o. C. Ranganathan) All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing House in Site No.6/A/1B, in Katha No.17/60, situated at Benniganahalli Village, Nagavarapalya, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring : East to West 40 + 48/2 Feet and North to South 15+30/2 feet and bounded on : East by - Nala, West by - Private Property, North by - Private Property, South by - Balarama's Property.	₹ 22,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh only)	09-07-2025 at 02.00 p.m.

PART - 3

Name of the Borrowers: No.1) M/s. Laharis Life Care, No.16/1, 1st Floor, 3rd Main Road, N.R. Colony, Behind Katte Balaga, Bangalore - 560019. No.2) Mrs. T.A. Leelavathy, W/o. H.L. Venkatesh, At No.11, 6th Cross, Near Sindhi Hospital, Sampagiram Nagar, Woodland Hotel, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027. No.3) Mr. H.L. Venkatesh, S/o. H.K. Lakshman Murthy, At No.11, 6th Cross, Near Sindhi Hospital, Sampagiram Nagar, Woodland Hotel, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027. No.4) Mrs. L. Radha, W/o. H.K. Lakshman Murthy, At No.11, 6th Cross, Near Sindhi Hospital, Sampagiram Nagar, Woodland Hotel, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027. No.5) Mrs. H.L. Shyamala, W/o. B.A. Ramesh, At No.11, 6th Cross, Near Sindhi Hospital, Sampagiram Nagar, Woodland Hotel, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027.

Outstanding Liability Amount : Rs.34,15,334/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Four only) as on **11-06-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **12-06-2025** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors.

Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mrs. L. Radha, W/o. H.K. Lakshman Murthy, Mr. H.L. Venkatesh, S/o. H.K. Lakshman Murthy & Mrs. H.L. Shyamala, W/o. B.A. Ramesh) All that Piece and Parcel of Land and RCC Residential Building with plinth area of Ground Floor 351 sq.ft. & First Floor 351 sq.ft. bearing Old No.68, New No.16/1, situated at 3rd Main Road, Division-50, Narasimharaja Colony, Near Dwaraka Hotel, Bangalore and Bounded on : East by : Vacant Space & Common Passage, West by : Private Property, North by : Private Property and South by : Property belonging to Smt. Jagadamba. Measuring : East to West 21 feet, North to South 20 feet in Total measuring 420 Sq.feet. Survey No. 365.	₹ 44,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh only)	09-07-2025 at 03.00 p.m.

Venue of Re-Tender-cum-Auction : City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Basavanagudi Branch, No.194, Ground Floor, S.C.Road, Near Nettakallappa Circle, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka - 560004. Phone No.080-26612162, Cell No.9343879470

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru - Basavanagudi Branch, No.194, Ground Floor, S.C.Road, Near Nettakallappa Circle, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka - 560004. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon for PART-1 & on or before 01.00 p.m. for PART-2 & on or before 02.00 p.m. for PART-3. (4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact : **Telephone No.080-26612162, Cell No.9343879470. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed Tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m. for PART -1 & 02.00 p.m. for PART - 2 and 03.00 p.m. for PART - 3** Property on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the Sale will be by way of closed Tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an open auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed Tender process, and in such an event, the Sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of **City Union Bank Limited. (7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam
Date : 13-06-2025

Authorised Officer
City Union Bank Ltd.

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

EDITORIAL

It was not by gold or by silver, but by labour, that all wealth of the world was originally purchased

Adam Smith

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

A RED LINE CROSSED IN WEST ASIA, THE WORLD MUST NOT LOOK AWAY

JUNE 13, 2025, may be remembered as the day the world crossed a dangerous threshold. In a sweeping and audacious military operation, Israel launched 'Operation Raising Lion', striking Iranian targets in several provinces, including Tehran and Tabriz. The attacks targeted suspected nuclear facilities, air defences, and the homes of senior commanders in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It's a sudden and dramatic escalation of a long-simmering shadow war, now brought into open confrontation. Iran responded swiftly, firing missiles at Israeli cities. West Asia and the world have awakened to a new and perilous reality.

The global stakes are immense. Oil prices surged, markets tumbled, and geopolitical risk skyrocketed. The fragile world order, already strained by wars in Gaza and Ukraine, Trump's tariffs and economic instability, now faces the threat of a broader regional war with unpredictable consequences.

President Donald Trump's efforts to broker a nuclear deal with Iran are likely dead. His endorsement of the Israeli assault and apocalyptic rhetoric leave little scope for diplomacy. The attack may have unified and hardened Iranian resolve. Europe has called for restraint, but words alone may not be enough to pull the region back from the brink.

For Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this war serves both strategic and political ends. He believes Iran is nearing nuclear capability and seeks to eliminate that threat by brute force. However, there is scant evidence that such actions will bring lasting security. Just as the Gaza campaign failed to destroy Hamas, this attack may only deepen instability. Netanyahu's political survival appears closely tied to military escalation, especially after narrowly escaping a no-confidence vote and mounting global condemnation over Gaza.

India, meanwhile, has vital interests at stake as well. Israel is a key defence and security partner. Iran, a civilisational ally, is crucial for regional security, connectivity, and the strategic Chabahar port. With millions of Indian citizens living in the Gulf, any broader conflict threatens lives, remittances, and national energy interests. India has called for restraint and dialogue, but it must also actively engage with global actors to help defuse tensions. This is a moment of grave international peril. Whether it is allowed to spiral into catastrophe or pulled back from the edge will depend on swift, bold, and coordinated diplomacy—before the fuse burns down.

PROTEAS' STUNNING WIN A FILLIP TO TEST CRICKET

CAPTAIN Temba Bavuma took a giant leap into cricketing history on Saturday, leading South Africa to victory in the World Test Championship clash against Australia. The team also dismissed the naysayers who questioned their inclusion in the final, as they had not played England or Australia in the current cycle. The win is significant for many reasons. It shatters the narrative that Test cricket is not feasible outside the Big Three—India, Australia, England—and the talk of tiering the longest format so that it remains competitive.

In the recently concluded WTC cycle, India defeated South Africa and England. South Africa beat Australia, Australia won against India, England defeated Pakistan, New Zealand beat India, and the West Indies beat Australia. It means that the standard of the longest form is at its peak, and the International Cricket Council (ICC) should disregard calls for fundamentally altering Test cricket. Sure, it's more profitable for some boards to play the format more often than not, but it doesn't need to be tampered with.

A more pertinent point for South African cricket is that the win represents their long-awaited tryst with destiny. Having come so close to victory on several occasions since their only ICC title in 1998, they have carried the stigma of being bad finishers for too long, and this win buries their ghosts from past horrors. Many Proteas, since their readmission in 1992, have been scarred by their inability to secure closure in the global ICC finals. This victory has the potential to change that narrative. It will also help ease concerns about the state of the five-day game in their country. At the beginning of this WTC cycle, they were forced to send a scratch Test team to New Zealand as they had prioritised their T20 league. That had promoted some alarm within the wider cricketing establishment. While they will be partial to SA20 due to cricket's skewed commerce—the Proteas won't play a home Test until the end of 2026—wins like this compel stakeholders to believe the test format is viable to continue investing in. Their next challenge is an away series in India, and the onus is on them to prove that the win at Lord's was not a one-off but exemplifies their new-found grit.

QUICK TAKE

VIRTUE OF THE VIRTUAL

LAST week, 1.3 crore Chinese students took the Gaokao exam, possibly the world's toughest test for university admissions. Students hoping to seek AI assistance got a shock as authorities turned off AI chatbots and tools to prevent "cheating" and ensure "fairness". AI instead monitored unusual student behaviour, including gestures, signs, and whispers. In India, national entrances are largely secure, but the NEET-UG has a chequered history. Cancellations and deferments due to cheating, paper leaks, or impersonation have plagued the paper-based exam. It's time to standardise the computer-based test format for all entrances and let AI tools plug security breaches, hacking, and cheating, thereby protecting the integrity of the testing process.

THERE are newspaper reports that the Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVI FC) has recently finalised its recommendations and will submit its report on schedule in October 2026. The chairman is quoted saying that no significant increase in devolution to states is contemplated.

The process of appointing a finance commission is not a consultative one. The Prime Minister appoints the members and chairperson. The central finance ministry drafts the terms of reference. This administration has been parochial in its appointments to the commission. The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) comprised an IMF bureaucrat, an economist-turned-BJP politician and civil servants. There was no representation from the peninsula. The XVI FC follows the same pattern, with just one civil servant from South India, whose career has been spent entirely in New Delhi, serving the central government.

Only the terms of reference (ToR) of the XVI FC seemed to indicate that things would not be business as usual, given the emergent contentious issues. It dispensed with the usual gaggle of meaningless supplementary asks (the XV FC's ToR was particularly egregious on this score, drafted by civil servants with little knowledge of fiscal federalism and endorsed by an inexperienced and clumsy political leadership) and wanted the commission to focus on the core issue of vertical and horizontal devolution.

This unusual brevity and precision on the part of the Government of India recognises a formidable challenge confronting intergovernmental fiscal relations. It is unlikely that the southern states will passively accept the findings of the XVI FC as non-partisan. What this lack of acceptance means in practice is unclear, as the Centre can override any dissent to adopt the commission's recommendations once its report is placed in parliament.

Nevertheless, it is wise not to use parliamentary procedure that works in times of national consensus to ride roughshod when there is serious political dissonance. There have been conclaves of non-NDA southern chief ministers and considerable public debate that has underscored the point that "business as usual" would be unacceptable.

The root of this uneasiness lies in the evolution of a structural break in the country's patterns of economic transformation, which has accelerated significantly over the past 30 years. The relative per capita income of the northern and eastern states has declined, while that of the peninsular states has risen. Human development achievements of the latter have far surpassed those of the rest of India. The peninsula now imports both capital and labour from the rest of India, accounts for most of India's non-commodity exports and is the major destination for foreign investment. Other than Delhi, all metropolitan growth has occurred in the peninsula. All sunrise industries—IT, Pharmaceuticals, light engineering, FMCG, and automobiles—are preponderantly located in the peninsula.

However, there is another skew which impacts the balance of political power. Fertility in the peninsula has declined sharply relative to the rest of the country. This means the population share of southern India is now much lower than it was in 1971.

In combination, this is a potentially explosive situation. Few countries have managed to navigate this asymmetry of a political majority being vastly poorer than an economic minority. Without convergence or an innovative political settlement, this is an existential threat.

The finance commissions have been the only instrument to mediate this conundrum with an implicit grand bargain. The poorer states have benefitted hugely from the transfer of taxable resources from the richer states. This happens because the largest weight in the horizontal devolution formula—which determines how much each state gets from income taxes, import duties and GST—is the inverse of the state's per capita income, which means the poorer a state is, the more resources it gets.

It is a testament to India's federal solidarity that this has been accepted without complaint by the richer states for the past 30 years. The unspoken obverse of the political bargain was the population component of the devolution formula would be calculated using the 1971 numbers, and seat apportionment in both houses of parliament, too, would be based on the 1971 population.

However, things are different now. The richer states have been asking: Why has there been no convergence despite such a significant resource transfer from the peninsula for over 30 years? When does solidarity in anticipation of convergence turn into a permanent subsidy? Why is delimitation happening now, with a conveniently postponed census that will be used to fix relative parliamentary strength, possibly as soon as the next election? Why was the XV FC asked to use the latest census in determining its award?

Add to this the contemporary tension of an ascendant ruling party in Delhi, with its base in the poorer states, allegedly misusing its governors to subvert political decisions made by southern states, seemingly seeking to impose Hindi as a national language and aggressively (if unsuccessfully) promoting regional leaders to challenge the dominant political consensus with its own brand of nationalist Hindutva politics, and the stage is set for an apocalyptic showdown.

The XVI FC cannot, therefore, pretend that it is business as usual. This is not why they were given a broad mandate to focus on devolution issues. Given that it is appointed by the Centre without consulting the states, given the consistent anti-peninsular bias in its composition, and given that the Government of India can adopt its recommendations without the concurrence of the states, it is (rightly or wrongly) also significantly exposed to the charge of partisan conduct. It is, therefore, very worrying when the commission's chairman is quoted as ruling out certain options (such as a sharp increase in devolution to states) in the public domain months before the award is placed before parliament.

There are many options available to the XVI FC if it has the independence and technical competence to consider them. And I sincerely hope that this is where their focus is, insofar as their abilities allow. However, pusillanimity and business-as-usual thinking, along with throwaway comments to the media (which does not befit a non-partisan constitutional body), are unhelpful, irresponsible, and damaging at this delicate juncture when intergovernmental fiscal relations are already under strain from larger pressures caused by economic and political divergence.

(Views are personal)
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Few countries manage to navigate the asymmetry of a political majority being vastly poorer than an economic minority. Without political settlement, this is an existential threat

ROOTS OF A DEVOLUTION SHOWDOWN

RATHIN ROY

Distinguished Professor, Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad; Visiting Senior Fellow, Overseas Development Institute, London

THE PENINSULA

MANDAR PARDIKAR

CONFRONTING LIFE'S FRAGILITY WITH ANCIENT WISDOM

A poignant meme is presently doing the rounds on social media about the uncertainty of life: that you go on a holiday and get massacred, you go on a honeymoon and get murdered, you fly out on a trip abroad, and your plane crashes, you mind your own business in your hostel when the sky literally falls on your head as a doomed plane.

This deeply disturbing pattern prompted me to reexamine the inner history of Hindu thought and its attempts to grasp the riddle of existence—its uncertainties and the frequently brutal outcome.

I found that Hindu thought is actually a practical game plan for life, providing perspective on the chaos. I hear it first in the *Rig Veda*, when the Hindus were still not *nagarik* or settled urban people but wandered the plains with their herds of cattle, frequently clashing over pasturage. So severe were these clashes that the encounters of two clans became a euphemism for battle, a *sangram*.

So, you find the Vedas saying a curious thing, "*Ekam sat, viprahbahudavadanti*," which I interpret as the practical message, "The facts are the facts, and smart people get it." On the ground, it means, "If everybody has to share the same space, they'll have to work it out."

This is a first in conflict resolution for the project of communal life with maximum damage control. It's a survival directive from the earliest Hindu worldview that internal strife absolutely has to be managed because nobody is going anywhere. Here they are, and here they stay. Hence this official statement: "Live and let live for the greater good."

We hear this point reiterated in many ways in the sixteen principal Upanishads that follow the Vedas. The Upanishads inquire, reflect, debate and theorise about this existential issue. And they continue to expand the concept of *Ekam Sat*.

Sat literally means "What is" or what exists. Its fundamental aspect, they say, is a 'Superself' or 'God', an intangible spirit. Amazingly, it contains every physical form and pervades every physical form. It's an essence so subtle that mere words fail to express it.

However, the Upanishads don't mean to give up without trying, for the concept is too mind-blowing. So, they settle for comparisons that everyone can understand: that the Superself is "*Pushpa madhyeyathagandham, payomadhyeyathaghrtam, tilamadhyeyathatailam*," or "As scent in a flower, as ghee in milk, as oil in a sesame seed." Further, "*Om purnamadahpurnamidam, purnatpurnamudachyate, purnasyapurnamadayapurnamevavashishyate.*" It means, "The Superself that contains everything is the whole. Everything that comes from it is a whole in itself, and yet it's a part of the bigger whole."

This is our first theory of a cosmos or universe that includes Earth and everything in it, as well as the galaxy comprising the sun, moon, stars, and planets.

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

PEXELS

> Hindu thought is a practical game plan for life. It provides tools to understand conflict, mortality, and navigate our constantly changing world

So, if it all belongs to the Superself, the Isha, what's everybody fighting about? "Don't be greedy," says the opening verse of the Isha Upanishad; "*Ishavaasyamidamsarvamyatkinchajagatyamjagat, tenatyaktenabhunjitha ma gridhah, kasyasviddhanam*," or "Everything moving or unmoving within the universe is controlled and owned by the One. So, we should accept only the stuff we need and not covet anything else, knowing to Whom they belong."

The other aspect of *sat*, they say, is that human beings link the larger world outside and the inner world of thoughts and feelings. What connects human beings and to the rest of the creation is an inner spark, the "light within the heart".

Having that sorted nicely, with a Superself that encompasses everything and an inner spark connecting us and to the Superself, they want to know more.

Whoosh! We hit the *Bhagavad Gita*. See, the Upanishads are reportage. Their authors "intuited" or "heard" things and said, "These are the thoughts that came to us and others; and these are the questions asked and the answers that came to us."

However, in the *Bhagavad Gita*, they make the big leap. They want to hear the Superself speak directly to them. It's the philosophical parallel of what happens after the Industrial Revolution, after people are done making cars, trains and planes, and think, "Right, let's build a spaceship."

And so, they envision a semi-celestial warrior and make him ask on their behalf because nobody will listen otherwise. They set up Arjuna in the middle of two huge armies on the brink of war in the ultimate *sangram*. They make him stick his neck out and say, "*Kathamvidyaamahamyogim*" (How may I know Thee, Lord?) *Bhagavad Gita* 10:17. You know the live-and-let-live answers to that, especially the bit with cult status, Chapter 16 in the *Bhagavad Gita* about "divine and demoniac natures".

But the work never stops because these amazing ideas are not exactly put into practice, and things sink to the bottom of the sea. It takes the Bhakti Movement to haul it up, scrape off the barnacles and reassert the core values of the Upanishads about the Supersoul and our interconnectivity as human beings. And then we have the colonial age, and paradoxically, it also helps the work because the Upanishads come right back as the Constitution—as the modern Upanishad, the old-new life plan.

In sum, given how suddenly we may die, we have no real mental refuge but the kindly arms of Sarasvati, the perspective that thought provides on how to live.

(Views are personal)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Evocative interview

Ref: *'I can't stop getting a year older', Paramita Ghosh interviews Ruskin Bond* (Jun 14). Ruskin Bond's words paint a poignant picture of a life lived in harmony with nature. Him finding solace and inspiration in its rhythms and beauty were deeply moving. His views on success are nuanced and an endearing affection for the comic world was particularly interesting.
Suhrita Basak, e-mail

Crash accountability

Ref: *Toll 270, probe panel formed* (Jun 15). The aviation minister has offered condolences and ordered inspections, but there has been no acceptance of moral responsibility. Ministers enjoy authority, but avoid accountability. The minister and top officials must step down, not for blame, but as a gesture of responsibility.
T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

Bavuma factor

Ref: *This time for Africa* (Jun 15). As Temba Bavuma holds the championship mace, it depicts a true story of a skipper whose grit, guts and determination led his team to achieve the greatest of ICC crowns.
M Pradyu, Kannur

Private interests

Ref: *Smelling cash in the space race* (Jun 15) We wish that the commercialisation of space doesn't gradually lead to compromise of safety standards. The dilution of professionalism is a possibility when competing and profit-driven private agencies carry out the missions. Public agencies like ISRO however, demonstrate an immaculate sense of commitment and dedication.
C V Aravind, Chennai

Diplomatic priorities

Ref: *World of wars and bonfire of G7 vanities* (Jun 15). The G7 meet will be an orchestrated extravaganza. Trump will drive the agenda with his own narratives. No solution to the present geopolitical conflicts is in sight. India should protect its interests through trade deals with the US to boost growth.
Rajarao Kumar, e-mail

Neighbourly concord

Ref: *Rajnath Singh to visit China on June 25* (June 14). In today's evolving global landscape, there's no gainsaying the fact that mutual cooperation is pivotal for overall development. Given China's rapid ascent to rival the US as a dominant superpower, there's certainly much for India to gain from its neighbour.
S Vaithianathan, Madurai

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Ashok Gehlot @ashokgehlot51
The death of 7 people including Jaipur resident pilot Shri Rajveer Singh Chauhan in a helicopter crash near Kedarnath is extremely sad.

Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
In Rajasthan, Rs 1914.71 crore has been sanctioned for 40 state road projects of total length of 1000.90 km under Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF).

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Tribute to the victims of the helicopter crash in Kedarnath. The government should ensure that no flight is operated without meeting the safety standards.

G7 Summit in Canada will serve as a platform to discuss global challenges and priorities of Global South: PM

Will build global consensus on combating terror: Modi

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday departed for a three-nation tour, highlighting the trip as an opportunity to thank partner countries for their continued support in India's fight against cross-border terrorism and to build global consensus on combating terrorism in all its forms.

Ahead of his departure, Modi said the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, would serve as a platform to discuss critical global challenges and the priorities of the Global South. He is attending the summit at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. This is the 6th G-7 summit that PM Modi is attending in a row.

"The three-nation tour is also an opportunity to thank partner countries for their steadfast support to India in its fight against cross-border terrorism and to galvanise global understanding on tackling terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," the PM said.

Modi will first visit Cyprus on June 15–16 at the invitation of President Nikos Christodoulides. "Cyprus is a close friend and an important partner in the Mediterranean region and the EU. The visit provides an opportunity to build upon the historical bonds and expand our ties in the areas of trade, investment, security, technology," he noted. The prime minister landed at Cyprus around 5 20 pm IST and he was received by country's President Nikos Christodoulides at the airport.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by the President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides upon his arrival at the airport, in Larnaca, Cyprus on Sunday | PTI

The G 7 summit will also offer a pathway for resetting the strained India-Canada ties as Modi will have a bilateral with his counterpart on the sidelines of the summit.

Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney held their first phone conversation on June 6, during which Modi accepted an invitation to attend the outreach session of the G7 Summit. The summit will be hosted by Canada from June 15 to 17 at the resort of Kananaskis.

Following the G7 Summit, Modi will travel to Croatia, where he will meet President Zoran Milanovic and Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic. Calling it a landmark visit, he said: "India and Croatia enjoy centuries-old close cultural links. As the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Croatia, it will open new avenues for bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest."

Cong says India-Canada relations deteriorated, rakes silence on Manipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AS Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a three-nation tour, the Congress on Sunday targeted him for ignoring 'agony' and 'sufferings' of people in Manipur, where ethnic violence continues unabated since May 2023. Taking a dig at Modi, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that he had all the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm for foreign trips but not empathy for Manipur.

"This is Modi's 35th trip abroad since May 2023. He has all the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm, the 3 Es, for such visits. But can he not summon up a 4th E, empathy, for going to Manipur where the people's distress and suffering continues unabated? He has met with NOBODY from the state, let alone political leaders, since May 3, 2023. Pathetic of the PM to treat Manipur in this awful manner," he posted on X.

The Congress has been attacking the PM for not visiting Manipur besides slamming the Centre for its handling of the situation in the ethnic strife-torn northeastern state. More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between

Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

Jairam also shared a video from 2015 in which Modi is seen giving a mathematical analogy to demonstrate the relationship between India and Canada. Ramesh suggested that the relationship between the two countries had deteriorated.

"The PM leaves for Cyprus, Canada, and Croatia this morning. There was a time when he boasted about his knowledge of algebra by spouting the (a+b)^2 equation as applicable to India and Canada. But things went horribly wrong thereafter," he wrote.

In his tweet, the Congress functionary also questioned the remark of the Canadian prime minister, who allegedly said that India is the fifth largest economy in the world.

INSIDER TRACK

New look BJP communication team

The BJP is reportedly gearing up to reboot its communications team. At a recent internal session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly offered a masterclass in political communication to party spokespersons. His key message? Stay grounded, stay accurate, and, for heaven's sake, steer clear of controversy. The goal, it seems, is to swap rhetorical fireworks for data-driven dialogue — preferably without losing the plot (or the eyeballs). As a result, the party's media edifice awaits re-engineering, from the grassroots level up to national headquarters, sources say. There is talk of workshops to skill spokespersons in research, strategy, myth-busting, and use of digital platforms. The team is expected to get a new mantra— 'Nation First, Maximum Governance, Minimum Government'— along with the ever-dependable 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. Think global, tweet local appears to be the new dictum.

Politics of luncheon camaraderie

Unlike former chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, who famously preferred the comfort of his Civil Lines residence to work from, Delhi's new Chief Minister Rekha Gupta is determined to bring governance back to the Secretariat—literally. A firm believer in leading from the front (and the office), she has made it clear to her ministerial colleagues that showing up to work is not optional. To keep tabs—subtly or otherwise—Gupta has adopted an interesting tactic: daily lunch invitations in her chamber. What sounds like a casual bonding exercise has now become something of a ritual, with ministers and senior officers trooping in for the CM's midday meal. But while the intent may be collegiality and coordination, the unintended consequence is time. Apparently, these lunch meetings have begun to stretch well beyond the dining table, eating into work hours and agendas--- some babus say. Others say it helps the governance, and a few weary officers have begun referring to them, only half-jokingly, as the Secretariat's very own "kitty party." Whether it has built camaraderie or not, it's safe to say the lunch at the Delhi Secretariat has never been more political.

Modi magnetism over metrics

As the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections draw closer, the NDA appears to be leaning heavily on the enduring charisma of PM Modi rather than a pitch based purely on its governance track record. This isn't new ground for the alliance, but the scale and strategic precision of the effort suggests a more concentrated reliance on Modi's appeal than in previous state elections. The NDA—currently composed of BJP, JD(U), LJP (RV), and other regional partners—is reportedly planning a fresh wave of rallies led by Modi, especially in electorally vulnerable regions. Sources indicate that over a dozen constituencies have been shortlisted, with special attention given to South Bihar and the Seemanchal belt. These areas are being seen as fertile grounds for a Modi-ledoutreach, particularly among Pasmanda Muslims and Yadav voters—traditionally loyal to the RJD.

Buzz on Suman Bery's replacement

The corridor of power is abuzz with talks that the government has already begun a hunt for replacement of Suman Bery as the NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman. The development comes amid talks that Bery may be on his way out due to poor communication with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Many in the system believe that the replacement is being considered to bring a much-needed spark into the government's top think tank, especially since the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO), BVR Subrahmanyam, has been shouldering much of the workload. A source in the government has indicated that headhunters are weighing options for a replacement, whether to go for a seasoned bureaucrat, or a policy wonk or an economic expert. However, it is expected that the tenure of the new Vice-Chairperson will be linked to the current government's term in the office.

Embassy in Iran issues advisory to students, Omar seeks evacuation

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

AS tensions escalate in the Iran-Israel conflict, the Indian Embassy in Iran has stepped up efforts to ensure the safety of Indian nationals, particularly students residing in the region. The embassy has issued a detailed advisory urging all Indians in Iran to avoid unnecessary movements and stay updated via official communication channels.

To streamline information flow, the Embassy has launched a dedicated Telegram channel — specifically for Indian nationals currently in Iran. This channel will provide timely updates on the evolving situation. Multiple helpline numbers have also been activated for calls and WhatsApp messaging to assist Indians requiring help.

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said he has been closely monitoring the situation, particularly concerning Kashmiri students studying in cities like Tehran, Shiraz, and Qom. Abdullah said his government is in continuous communication with the MEA and the Indian Embassy in Iran.

"We are in close touch with MEA regarding the evolving situation in Iran, especially about Kashmiri students. The Embassy is coordinating with Iranian authorities to ensure their safety. Any decision on evacuation will be based on ground realities, prioritizing the security of these students," Abdullah said. "As a parent, I assure all concerned families that the government is giving this matter its utmost attention."

Around 10,00 Indian nationals are in Iran. Government sources said they are keeping a close tab on the development and in touch with Iran authorities. "It's a difficult situation. We are taking every measure that we have to ensure the safety of nationals and any decision," said an official.

Amid the growing unrest, Indian authorities continue to emphasise vigilance , urging all nationals in Iran to stay connected to official channels for updates.

IMD sounds flash flood alert for Northeast & South India

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

AS the monsoon gained momentum after a two-week lull, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday issued a flash flood alert for northeast and south India.

"The reactivation of the second phase of the southwest monsoon may bring heavy rainfall to coastal Karnataka, Kerala, and Mahe. Additionally, the northeastern states face an increased risk of moderate to severe flash floods. The region is expected to experience heavy rainfall, potentially exceeding 200 mm," the IMD said.

Experts warn that the exceptional rainfall may lead to increased surface runoff, soil saturation, and flooding in low-lying areas, which could create conditions conducive to landslides.

IMD issued a red alert for Konkan, Goa, Coastal Karnataka, and Kerala, and an orange alert for the northeast. There is a moderate to high risk of flash floods in Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and parts of Assam over the next two days. Orange alert signify the need to be prepared for any eventuality, while Red alert is for the initiation of action taken.

This year, the Southwest monsoon reached the Kerala coast eight days before its scheduled date, June 1. It quickly spread over the southern peninsula, a part of central India, and northeast before its time until June 2. Later, the intrusion of warm air from the western side stopped the moisture-laden eastern wind from moving further. This caused a dry spell and heatwave in north India.

Multiple systems have formed across the country. An upper air cyclonic circulation lies over the northwest Bay of Bengal, south Madhya Maharashtra and its neighbourhood, north Rajasthan, south Himachal Pradesh, and north Uttarakhand.

Further, a trough runs from east MP to Bangladesh, and another trough runs from north Rajasthan to west MP. Under the influence of these systems, south, west, central, and northeast India will receive heavy rainfall. In the next few days, northwest India will receive scattered rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning, and hailstorms in Haryana. The rainfall will bring down temperatures and humidity in north India.

IMD also predicted a dust storm over west Rajasthan, with wind speeds reaching 50-60 kmph and gusting to 70 kmph. In its bulletin, IMD said conditions are favourable for the further advancement of the southwest monsoon over some parts of Gujarat, some more parts of Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha during the next 24 hours, and over some parts of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, and east UP during the subsequent three days.

Northwest India to get scattered rainfall

A trough runs from east MP to Bangladesh, and another runs from north Rajasthan to west MP. Under the influence of these systems, south, west, central, and northeast India will receive heavy rainfall. Northwest India will receive scattered rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning.

EXPRESS READ

Cashless treatment for accident victims

NEW DELHI: The State Road Safety Council (SRSC) has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring and effective implementation of cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The guidelines outline the process for transferring injured individuals to hospitals, disbursing payments, and settling claims.

Rules eased for scientific equipment purchase to boost research: Minister

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

SCIENCE and Technology Minister **Jitendra Singh** Jitendra Singh on Sunday announced a series of reforms to enhance the "ease of innovation" and "ease of doing research".

Addressing the media, Singh outlined key decisions designed to help academic and research institutions overcome challenges in their day-to-day operations—especially those relating to procurement delays and restrictive financial ceilings. "Such path-breaking decisions could not have been possible without the personal indulgence and support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Under the new reforms, directors of scientific organisations and vice-chancellors of universities will now be empowered to make non-GeM (government e-marketplace) purchases for specialised research equipment and materials -- a shift from existing rules which mandated GeM procurement.

"We have tried to do away with red tapism. This is a move that places trust in the science leaders of this country. The message from the Modi government is clear — we trust you, we value you and we are committed to you," Singh said.

The announcement follows extensive consultations led by the Principal Scientific Adviser's office, incorporating inputs from 13 IITs and other research bodies. According to an official statement, one of the most consequential reforms is the delegation of procurement powers to institutional heads.

The government has also revised key financial thresholds under the General Financial Rules. The limit for direct purchases has been doubled from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh, while departmental committee purchase ranges have been increased from ₹1–10 lakh to ₹2–25 lakh.

Similarly, limits for limited tender enquiries and advertised tenders have been raised from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore. Furthermore, institutional heads are now authorised to approve Global Tender Enquiries (GTEs) up to ₹200 crore—a power previously restricted to central authorities.

Singh emphasised that while the reforms offer greater autonomy, they are underpinned by trust and responsibility. "There is an enormous responsibility that comes with this autonomy. We are relying on the integrity of the science community to ensure that this flexibility is used judiciously," he said.

Hate politics hampering care to migrants: Lancet

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

POLITICAL narratives relying on hate, which get amplified by the media, are making it tough to protect migration, making it challenging to help refugees with health issues, according to a latest article in the The Lancet. Noting that migration will remain one of the most significant issues of the 21st century, it said safety, health, and well-being of migrants must be upheld.

The report also flagged the alarming rise of forced displacement because of conflict, violence, persecution, human rights violations, and events that disturb public order. In 2024, there were an estimated 304 million international migrants, it said. Stressing that the global health community has a key role in advancing these arguments, the report said a large part of the public in many countries is not swayed by these points.

"Many people remain skeptical of, or out rightly hostile towards immigration," it said, adding that if the health community cannot find a way to change these narratives, then it must find a way to operate nevertheless.

"Political narratives that rely on hate and division, further fuelled by the media, are resulting in restrictive and securitised approaches to migration. This disconnect is the great challenge to making gains to protect and support refugee and migrant health," the article, 'the uncertain future of migrant and refugees health,' said.

Noting that migrants often have worse health outcomes than host populations, the article said that they are frequently the "most vulnerable and neglected people, and remain a pressing global health concern." "Moreover, rising political anti-migrant sentiment and economic upheaval are undermining the moral responsibility, compassion, and resources needed to address migrant health," it added.

It highlighted that migrants make a huge contribution to society in terms of economic prosperity, development, and community enrichment.

It said addressing migration and health is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage, protecting and promoting the health of all populations, and effectively managing health emergencies.

"Global migration is an inescapable reality. Whether by choice or by force, 1 billion people (one in eight of the world population) are on the move today, driven by economic, political, demographic, environmental, and sociocultural forces," it said. The article highlighted that global migration is an inescapable reality, whether by choice or force. By mid-2024, a record 122.6 million people were forcibly displaced.

The article noted that climate change is a driver of displacement and quoted the World Bank, which has predicted that climate change will force more than 216 million people across six continents to move within their countries by 2050.

Decades of technical progress have been made on the topic of migration and health across the UN system.

The adoption of World Assembly Resolutions in 2008 and 2017 on migrant and refugee health culminated in the first global action plan (GAP) on promoting the health of refugees and migrants in 2019, including the first global monitoring framework.

ROAD MISHAP

At least three persons were killed and eight others injured after a speeding truck collided with a private bus in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district on Sunday morning, police said.

YOUTH

SHOT DEAD IN UP'S BUDAUN DISTRICT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	30	26	Mumbai	28	27
Bhopal	33	24	Panaji	28	26
Jaipur	34	27	Patna	37	29
Amritsar	35	28	Lucknow	36	29
Chennai	34	28	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	31	27	Imphal	28	23
Srinagar	19	15	Chandigarh	32	26

DNA tests identify 80 plane crash victims; 33 bodies handed over

PMO team led by PK Mishra lands in Ahmedabad to monitor rescue, relief work and probe

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

THREE days after the deadly crash of an Air India flight outside Ahmedabad international airport left more than 270 people dead, authorities have so far identified 80 victims, including former chief minister Vijay Rupani, through DNA testing, and handed over the bodies of 33.

Giving an official update, State Emergency Commissioner Alok Pandey said 33 death certificates had been issued and bodies handed over to the respective families. To support grieving families, 22 special teams have been deployed to help them process insurance claims and avoid financial hardship.

He said contact has been established with families of all 230 passengers, and relatives ofremaining three foreign nationals are expected to arrive within the next 36 hours.

Confirming the progress on identifications, Civil Hospital Assistant Superintendent Dr Rajnish Patel said, "DNA matches have been confirmed for 80 deceased so far, and families have been contacted. Of these, 33 bodies have been handed over to families." The victims whose mortal remains were handed over were from Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Kheda, Botad and other places.

Support teams set up to assist bereaved families

To assist the bereaved families of the victims, the state government has deployed dedicated support teams for each deceased. These three-member teams—comprising a senior administrative officer, a police officer, and a trained professional counsellor—are working closely with families, providing emotional, logistical, and procedural support.

To assist the bereaved families of the victims, the state government has deployed dedicated support teams for each deceased. These three-member teams—comprising a senior administrative officer, a police officer, and a trained professional counsellor—are working closely with families, providing emotional, logistical, and procedural support. "From 9 pm last night to 1 pm, our teams have worked tirelessly to match DNA samples," Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Rameshbhai Sanghavi told media.

As many of the bodies were burnt beyond recognition or damaged otherwise, authorities are carrying out DNA tests to establish the identity of victims of the horrific tragedy.

Providing updates during a press briefing at noon today, Dr Rajneesh Patel said that the identification process is being handled with the utmost sensitivity and scientific precision. "The handover of remains is taking place only after DNA confirmation to avoid any margin of error," he emphasised.

All but one out of the 242 people onboard, including crew and passengers were killed in addition to at least 29 people on ground as Air India flight AI171- a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner en route to London Gatwick, nosedived minutes after take off, crashing into the students hostel of the BJ Medical College in the Meghaninagar neighbourhood.

Amid intensified relief efforts, a high-level team from the Prime Minister's Office arrived in Ahmedabad on Sunday to oversee the ongoing response.

The team, led by Principal Secretary to the PM, Dr PK Mishra, will remain in Gujarat for two days to monitor rescue, relief, and investigation work. Key meetings have been lined up with Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, DGP, and Additional Chief Secretary (Home).

After visiting the crash site, PK Mishra expressed grief and solidarity. "We came here to witness everything ourselves, and it's deeply saddening. There's really no need to say much, everyone already knows. Everyone is heartbroken, and there's nothing more to ask. But we listened to everyone, and expressed our feelings and solidarity with them," he said.

Meanwhile, Air India said it is working closely with other Tata group companies for every possible assistance to the families of the crash victims.

Scheduled Castes panel issues notice to Lalu over Ambedkar photo row

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE State Commission for Scheduled Castes in Bihar on Sunday issued a notice to RJD chief Lalu Prasad after a video purportedly showing him with a portrait of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar placed at his feet, went viral on social media.

In the video, Lalu is seen seated on a couch with his feet placed on a sofa nearby as a supporter enters the room, carrying the portrait of Ambedkar, and places it close to the former's feet before greeting him during former's birthday celebrations held at the 10 Circular Road residence of former CM Rabri Devi earlier this week.

In the notice to Lalu, the Commission has asked the RJD patriarch to clarify his position on the viral video and also explain why a case should not be registered against him under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Senior NDA leaders, including union minister and HAM patron Jitan Ram Manjhi and Bihar deputy chief minister Samrat Choudhary, have accused him of insulting Ambedkar.

Whether NDA will be able to make further inroads into the Dalit vote bank in the upcoming assembly election by hammering the issue is yet to be seen. But the issue has definitely landed RJD in a piquant situation.

In support of his father, RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, son of Lalu Prasad, asserted that the RJD chief holds Ambedkar in high regard.

Talking to the media on Saturday, Tejashwi said, "Lalu Yadav has installed many statues of Baba Saheb Ambedkar in Bihar. We believe in Ambedkar's ideology. Lalu Yadav works for 10 hours at the age of 78 and meets people. These (BJP) people have nothing to do with Baba Saheb, the Constitution and reservation." Senior JD(U) leader Ashok Choudhary said, "Not respecting Ambedkar's picture is bound to hurt the people's sentiments."

GUWAHATI DIARY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
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15K bighas of satra land encroached upon: CM

The 'satras' — monastic institutions within Assam's neo-Vaishnavite tradition — have lost over 15,000 bighas of their land to encroachment. Taking a serious view of it, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma noted that an area twice the size of Dispur had been encroached upon. "The sheer scale of encroachment of the satras is a direct assault on Assam's culture and identity. Not anymore. We are dealing firmly with this," he posted on X. The Satra Aayog, constituted by the government for reviewing and assessing the problems of satra land in Assam, has submitted its final report to Sarma with its recommendations.

Solar fence to mitigate human-elephant conflict

In a bid to mitigate human-elephant conflict and facilitate co-existence, biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak has installed a 30.1-km solar fence covering three project villages in Jorhat district in collaboration with the British Asian Trust and the Elephant Family with support from the Darwin Initiative. The project has benefitted over 1,047 households affected by human-elephant conflict. There was a time when herds of wild elephants would wreak havoc in these villages while foraging for crops, causing immense hardship to the agrarian community. However, the installation of these solar-powered fences helped significantly ease the problem.

IED case: ULFA chief, 2 others chargesheeted

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted ULFA commander-in-chief Paresh Baruah and two other members of the banned insurgent group — Abhijit Gogoi and Jahnu Boruah — for a conspiracy to carry out multiple IED blasts in Assam on Independence Day last year. During the probe, the NIA found that as many as 11 IEDs were planted in different parts of the state, including Guwahati. However, none of them exploded. The investigation agency says the plot was meant to cause deaths and unrest. Boruah, who has reportedly admitted to planting four of the IEDs, was arrested from Dibrugarh in December.

INFLUENCER CASE

Sikh radical behind murder flees to UAE

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

SELF-styled Sikh radical leader Amritpal Singh Mehron — prime accused in the murder of content creator Kanchan Kumari — has reportedly fled to the United Arab Emirates.

Two Nihangs, Jaspreet Singh (32) of Moga and Nimarjit Singh (21) of Tarn Taran, have already been arrested in connection with the case. Meanwhile, the Punjab Police has issued a lookout circular against Mehron, the key conspirator.

Kumari, better known as 'Kamal Kaur Bhabhi', was apparently killed for posting 'obscene' content online. She was found dead in her car parked outside a varsity at Bhucho Kalan along the Bathinda–Chandigarh highway last Wednesday. Mehron had claimed responsibility for the killing on social media.

He has also issued threats to other social media influencers, including Simarpreet Kaur and Deepika Luthra. The cyber cell of the Amritsar Police has filed a case in this regard. Besides, four of his Instagram handles and the page of a group run by him have been withheld in India for allegedly posting death threats and racist content.

Reforms to ensure land rights for 47K indigenous families in Bodoland

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

IN Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), a series of land reforms is now paving the way for renewed dignity and empowerment of the landless indigenous population.

As part of the reforms, the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), which rules the BTR, on Sunday launched 'Mission Bwiswmuthi 2.0' to secure land rights for 47,000 indigenous landless families, including 9,000 small tea growers and rubber farmers.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya distributed land allotment certificates to the beneficiaries at a function held in Baksa.

Peace had returned to the BTR, which remained disturbed for decades amid an insurgency movement, in the aftermath of the Centre's signing of the BTR peace accord with several insurgent groups in 2020.

The Governor said Mission Bwiswmuthi 2.0 marked a significant stride toward ensuring land security, social empowerment, and economic uplift of the people of the region.

"It is heartening to see the BTR government undertaking proactive reforms to simplify

land governance, digitise records, and make the process more transparent and citizen-centric," he said.

Pramod Boro, Chief Executive Member of the BTC, said in every chapter of human history, land served not merely as territory but as the foundation within which societies, cultures, ideas and ideals were forged.

"Recognising the intrinsic link between land and human dignity, the BTR government has embarked on a comprehensive reform agenda. Today, we are ensuring land rights for every bonafide citizen of the BTR," said Boro who is also the chief of political party United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

The 46-member BTR (six nominated) will go to elections later this year. Currently, the UPPL-BJP combine is in power in the autonomous BTC.

Op Sindoor sent out a stern message to terrorists: Shah

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

INDIA'S blood is not meant to be shed. Whosoever dares, would invite punishment in equal measure, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He asserted that PM Narendra Modi conveyed the message loud and clear through 'Operation Sindoor', during which the Indian forces targeted and destroyed terror bases in Pakistan.

Shah was addressing a gathering during an event organised to distribute appointment letters to over 60,000 newly selected police constables here on Sunday. On the occasion, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handed the letters to the new recruits.

The event marked the biggest-ever direct recruitment drive for police constables in the history of the UP police.

Under the 'Civil Police Direct Recruitment' drive, as many as 48,196 male and 12,048 female candidates have been selected by the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board. While addressing the new recruits, Shah attacked the previous Congress governments for failing to curb terror attacks across the country till 2014.

After Pahalgam, the headquarters of terrorists were razed to the ground with Operation Sindoor. PM Modi sent a message to the whole country and the world out there that India's blood is not meant to be shed, and whoever dares to do this will be punished

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

"Terrorist attacks used to happen every day under Congress' rule, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Coimbatore, Delhi, and don't even mention Kashmir. Pakistan tried to attack India thrice during PM Modi's rule. When they tried in Uri, they were met with a surgical strike. After Pulwama, they were met with an air strike, and after Pahalgam, the headquarters of terrorists were razed to the ground with Operation Sindoor. PM Modi sent a message to the whole country and the world out there that India's blood is not meant to be shed, and whoever dares to do this will be punished," Shah asserted.

Referring to the commitment of eradicating the menace of naxalism by March 31, 2026, the Union Home Minister said that during the last decade of Modi government, Naxalism's spread was reduced from over 11 states to just 3 districts.

"During the 11 years of PM Modi's leadership, the country has become safer and more secure. Naxalism which was widespread in 11 states of the country, has come down to only three states. Mark my words: By 31. 3. 2026, this country will be free from Naxalism," he reiterated.

Use Hindi, not Urdu or Persian: Raj to police

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE Rajasthan government has directed the police department to remove all Urdu and Persian words in official documents and replace them with Hindi.

MoS for Home Dept Jawahar Singh Bedham has asked the DGP to prepare a proposal on replacing Urdu and Persian words currently used in documents, letters, reports, notice boards and other communication with Hindi terminology. "The proposal will be reviewed and implemented at the appropriate administrative level," said the minister's letter to the DGP. Bedham also cited that a letter was also written in this regard on September 30, 2024.

The minister said that in present times, police personnel and the public at large are not familiar with Urdu and Persian words. The directive further says that Urdu/Persian words were introduced during the Mughal era, and administrators at that time had to learn the languages. However, in the current era, Urdu/Persian words are often misunderstood or misinterpreted, and that often leads to delays in justice.

Currently a range of Urdu/Persian words are commonly used in police functioning.

These include words like Roznamcha, Istgasa, Muzrim, Waqeel, Gawaah, Sazaa, Sazaa-e-Yafta, Dafaa, Chashmadeed, Mouka Muaayna, Qatal, Gunaah, Munsif, Kotwaal, Sazaa-e-Maut, Kachahari, Khajanchi. "In such a situation, I myself thought that now new technology has come and Urdu is also disappearing from our common spoken language, so we should simplify the words so that the common man can understand them," the minister said in the letter on Saturday.

The minister claims that prioritising Hindi in administrative language would improve accessibility to legal documents, government orders and police records.

"Using Hindi words instead of Urdu/Persian will make it easier for citizens to understand government notices, directives and schemes, which help in establishing better communication between the police administration and the general public," the letter stated.

The minister said many students preparing for competitive examinations do not study Urdu as a third language, due to which they face inconvenience in using Urdu and Persian vocabulary when recruited in the police. "Urdu and Persian are not a part of competitions in today's time. So when the candidates selected in the police force become sub-inspectors, SPs, they do not understand the meaning of many words," he said.

'Will make it easier for people to understand notices'

"Using Hindi words instead of Urdu/Persian will make it easier for citizens to understand government notices, directives and schemes, which help in establishing better communication between the police administration and the general public," the letter stated. Currently a range of Urdu/Persian words are commonly used in police functioning.

In a 1st, Japan technique to help boost forest cover outside Palamu reserve

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE forest officials will adopt the 'Miyawaki Technique' developed in Japan to increase forest cover over the barren land on the outskirts of the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Jharkhand. Miyawaki is a technique developed by scientist Akira Miyawaki, under which local plants are developed into a forest in three to four years.

According to PTR Deputy Director Prajsesh Kant Jena, "The soil is more enriched in the forest areas, and there are some open patches near Betla Forest, which could be easily converted into forest area. Initially, the plan was to plant multiple species, as done under the Miyawaki technique, and land was identified for it. But, instead of adopting the exact model, we started an experimental pre-step of the Miyawaki technique, naming it 'Bamboo Forest Creation,' which will be a mono-species forest spread over 10 hectares of land with a water body".

They have also found a social angle, under which they are asking every girl studying at the adjoining Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya to plant at least one plant, he added.

According to Jena, nearly 10,000 bamboo saplings will be planted with the help of local villagers. Since bamboo grows very fast, it will be converted into a forest in the years to come, with a water body at the centre and a walkway, he said.

With this, a Bamboo Retreat, on the lines of those found in Japan, will be created, which could be used for open schooling at the Kasturba Vidyalaya and an attraction for the local villagers and tourists visiting the Betla Forests as well.

Jena said that with the onset of monsoon, nearly 10,000 bamboo saplings will be planted here on 10 hectares of land.

"As soon as it gets completed, we will go for complete Miyawaki technique on the barren patches near Betla Forests next year, with multi-species looking at the utilities of the local villagers," said Jena.

14 dead as minibus, truck collide in Ivory Coast

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	26	11	LC	Los Angeles	17	10	SNY
Colombo	32	25	TDS	Melbourne	18	13	LC
Dhaka	34	27	LC	Moscow	5	0	LC
Dubai	42	31	SNY	New York	14	6	LR
Houston	30	22	LC	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	17	12	LR	Toronto	8	1	LC
London	17	8	SNY	Washington	23	8	TDS

A man looks as flames rise from an oil facility hit by an Israeli strike in Tehran; (R) Israeli soldiers search for survivors amid the rubble of residential buildings destroyed by an Iranian missile strike at Bat Yam in central Israel | AP

Will stop if Israel does so, says Iran; Netanyahu rejects deescalation call

Israel says it attacked Mashhad airport; eases air raid warning, allows people to leave shelters

DUBAI

ISRAEL unleashed airstrikes across Iran for a third day on Sunday and threatened even greater force as some Iranian missiles evaded Israeli air defenses to strike buildings in the heart of the country. Planned talks on Iran's nuclear programme, which could provide an off-ramp, were canceled.

Israel's military said its air force struck Mashhad airport in Iran's northeast on Sunday, the latest move in what it calls an offensive against the Islamic republic's military and nuclear sites.

"A short while ago, the IAF (Israeli Air Force) struck an Iranian aerial refuelling aircraft at Mashhad airport in eastern Iran, approximately 2,300 km from Israel," a statement said, adding it was the longest-range strike conducted since the beginning of the operation on Friday.

Israel's strikes have killed at least 406 people in Iran and wounded another 654, according to a human rights group that has long tracked the country, Washington-based Human Rights Activists. Iran's government has not offered overall casualty figures.

The region braced for a protracted conflict after Israel's surprise bombardment on Friday of Iranian nuclear and military sites killed several top generals and nuclear scientists. Neither side showed any sign of backing down. Iran said Israel struck two oil refineries, raising the prospect of a broader assault on Iran's heavily sanctioned energy industry that could affect global markets. The Israeli military, in a social media post, warned Iranians to evacuate arms factories, signaling a further widening of the campaign.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that if Israel's strikes on Iran stop, then "our responses will also stop." Israel said 14 people there have been killed and 390 wounded. World leaders made urgent calls to deescalate. The attack on nuclear sites set a "dangerous precedent," China's foreign minister said Saturday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has brushed off such calls, saying Israel's strikes so far are "nothing compared to what they will feel under the sway of our forces in the coming days."

Iran's foreign minister on Saturday called the nuclear talks "unjustifiable" after Israel's strikes.

Russia said Sunday it had evacuated several of its citizens from Iran and halted activity at its Tehran consulate after Israeli attacks on the country sparked retaliatory missile fire towards Israel.

"Due to the current situation, the consular service of the embassy is temporarily suspending its activities. The resumption of consular services will be announced later," the Russian embassy in Tehran said on Telegram. *AP/AFP*

Houthis fire missiles in solidarity with Iran

Sanaa: Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said Sunday they had launched several missiles at Israel as it came under Iranian fire, following a massive Israeli bombardment campaign on the Islamic republic. The Houthis said in a statement they had "carried out a military operation targeting sensitive targets of the Israeli enemy" in central Israel. The Houthis said their attacks were "coordinated with the operations carried out by the Iranian military".

Israeli military kills 16, most hit near aid distribution site

GAZA CITY | **ISRAEL-GAZA:** DAY **619**

GAZA's civil defence agency said 16 people were killed in Israeli military operations in the Palestinian territory on Sunday, most of them while waiting for aid.

The first responders agency's teams transported the bodies of 16 people killed by Israeli fire in various part of the Palestinian territory, spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

At least three people were killed and many injured when Israeli forces "targeted a gathering of hundreds of citizens near the aid distribution point" in central Gaza Sunday morning, Bassal said. In the coastal territory's north, Bassal said civil defence teams transported seven people killed on their way to get aid distributed from trucks in the area northwest of Gaza City.

In south Gaza, two people were killed and 50 were injured "when (Israeli) forces opened fire on citizens near an aid distribution point," Bassal said.

Contacted by AFP, the army said it was "not aware of gunshots near Netzarim or Rafah", and that it was looking into the events in northern Gaza.

Israeli restrictions on media in Gaza and the difficulties of access on the ground mean AFP is unable to independently verify the casualty tolls provided by the civil defence agency.

Dozens of Palestinians have been killed while trying to reach Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) distribution points since the US- and Israel-backed organisation began operating in late May, according to the civil defence agency.

An officially private effort with opaque funding, the GHF began operating on May 26 after Israel cut off supplies into Gaza for more than two months, sparking international condemnation and warnings of imminent famine.

The Gaza Strip has been ravaged by more than 20 months of war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas, with the situation continuing to deteriorate on the ground. *AFP*

Saudi Arabia executes journo jailed for tweets, say activists

DUBAI

A prominent Saudi journalist who was arrested in 2018 and convicted on terrorism and treason charges has been executed, the kingdom said. Activist groups maintain that the charges against him were trumped up.

Turki Al-Jasser, who was in his late 40s, was put to death on Saturday, according to the official Saudi Press Agency, after the death penalty was upheld by the nation's top court.

Authorities had raided Al-Jasser's home in 2018, arresting him and seizing his computer and phones. It was not clear where his trial took place or how long it lasted.

According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, Saudi authorities maintained that Al-Jasser was behind a social media account on X, formerly Twitter, that levied corruption allegations against Saudi royals. Al-Jasser was also said to have posted several controversial tweets about militants and militant groups.

CPJ's programme director Carlos Martínez de la Serna condemned the execution and said the lack of accountability in the wake of the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in 2018 allows for continued persecution of journalists in the kingdom.

0"The international community's failure to deliver justice for Jamal Khashoggi did not just betray one journalist," he said, adding it had "emboldened de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to continue his persecution of the press." *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

PRESIDENT VISITS S'PORE FOR TALKS

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto left Jakarta on Sunday for an official visit to Singapore. On Monday, he will attend a state reception, meet Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, and join a bilateral leaders' retreat with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong to discuss strategic priorities and deepen cooperation. The visit aims to strengthen ties and address regional and global issues. After Singapore, Prabowo will visit Russia for talks with President Vladimir Putin and deliver a keynote at the Saint Petersburg Economic Forum.

Pedestrians walk past a monument destroyed by Russian bombing in Sumy, north-eastern Ukraine | AFP

Russian drone attacks intensify near Ukraine's Sumy as troops advance

STETS'KIVKA

DESPITE the driving rain, a few elderly residents wander into the streets of Stetskivka in northeast Ukraine to catch a yellow bus to go shopping in nearby Sumy, the regional capital.

They are worried about the Russian drones that have been striking the area with increasing regularity, more than three years into Moscow's invasion. "I'm afraid. Nobody knows what could happen to the bus we take," Galyna Golovko, 69, told AFP at the small shop she runs near the bus stop.

Golovko said she never goes out in the morning or evening when Russian drones criss-cross the sky. "It's scary how many drones fly in the morning.... In the morning and in the evening it's just hell," she said. The border with the neighbouring Russian region of Kursk is just 17 kilometres (11 miles) away. The Sumy region was the starting point for a Ukrainian incursion into Kursk last year.

Ukraine held swathes of the territory for eight months, until a spring offensive by Russian forces supported by North Korean troops pushed them back. Moscow has since advanced towards the city of Sumy, taking several villages along the way and forcing mandatory evacuations of civilian residents. At the Stetskivka bus stop, an elderly woman said she had packed up in case Russian troops arrive in town, where Ukrainian soldiers have replaced a pre-war population of 5,500 people. The town is just 10 kilometres from the front line, and residents said there is heavy fighting nearby. *AFP*

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 30th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL COURT AT BANGALORE

P & S.C. No. 17/2025 (CCH-31)

Between : 1. Govindarajan S/o Rajagam, Aged about 78 years, **2. Engersoll** S/o Govindarajan Aged about 46 years, Both are residing No.308, 8 East Main East, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar BBMP, Bengaluru Urban, Bangalore-560 043. ...Petitioners

AND : Nil ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named has made petition to this court under section 372 Indian succession act for the grant of succession certificate in favour of the petitioners, in respect of schedule property mentioned below, which was held by deceased **Nirmla W/o Govindarajan died on 04-07-2024.** wife of petitioner no. 1 and mother of petitioner no.2 who expired.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before the Hon'ble 30th Additional City Civil Court (CCH-31) at Bengaluru in person or by Pleader duly instructed **on 08.07.2025 at 11.00 AM** to inform or to show cause against the petitioners failing which this petition will be heard and decided expate.

SCHEDULE

Deposit Amount : Sum of Rs. 50,366/-
From A/C No. 6729624543 at Indian Bank Banaswadi Branch
Given under my hand & seal of the court 11.06.2025.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

S.N Sameer, J. Arun, Advocates
Office at No.22, Lakshmi Nilya, Yamuna Bai Road, Kumar Park East, Madhavanagar, Bengaluru-560 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule property, from its lawful owners **SRI. Prabhin Kumar Agarwal S/o Sitaram Agarwal,** aged about 43 years, and Priya Agarwal W/o Prabin Kumar Agarwal aged about 39 yerars both are R/at No.707, 2nd Main OMBR Layout, Banasawadi, Benglauru-560 043.

Any person /institutions claiming to have any right, title, charge, lien or minor claims whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge his/her/their/its claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within **Seven (7) days** of this publication failing which it will be presumed that there are no objections or claims or disputes in respect of the schedule property and my client shall proceed to get the schedule property conveyed in their favour. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the undeveloped residential converted land bearing **Sy. No.71/1,** measuring to an extent **2 acre**, vide Conversion order No.ALN.SR.282/2017-18, dated 29.12.2018, issued by the Deputy Commissioner Kolar, situated at **Varadenahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District;** and Bounded on the:

East by : Land bearing Sy No.71/3 and 76, West by : Road, North by : Land bearing Sy No.71/2, South by : Land bearing Sy No.72 and 74.

Manjunath K.V. & Associates, Advocates, No.3/1(Old NO.359), 1st Floor, 14th Cross, 4th Main, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore -560 080, Ph: 080 23618018

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Center, Governerpet, Vijayawada - 520002 (A.P.)

NIT.No.46/PROC/MAU61-USI0INF(OTH)/23/2025-IFR2 Dt:15.06.2025

E Procurement Tender Notice

Name of the work: "RFP for Engaging Project Management Consultancy for Construction of Roads,Drains,Water Supply,Sewerage, utility Ducts for Power & ICT, Reuse waterline & Avenue Plantation, compatible with trunk infrastructure in Layouts for Land Pooling Schemes for Zone-1 (1A &1B)& Zone-7 including DLP of 2 Years".

This bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **16-06-2025 to 01-07-2025 upto14:00Hrs**.Due date of submission of bid is **01-07-2025 upto15:00 Hrs.**For further details please refer to www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda. ap.gov.in.

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

TANSI TAMIL NADU SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
A-28, Thiru-Vi-Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032
Telephone No. 044 - 2250 1632 Fax No.044 - 2250 0411

NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT

Applications are invited from reputed Manufacturing firm / Company / Vendor / Distributor / Dealer for Empanelment with TANSI Corporate Office, Guindy, Chennai for supply of the iron & steel raw materials, wooden raw materials and other related items.

Category
Various materials under the categories of Wood and Steel required for production purposes detailed in Annexure –A attached to the application for empanelment of reputed firms in TANSI.

Interested Manufacturing Firms / Companies / Vendors / Distributors / Dealers desirous of being empanelled are requested to apply in the Prescribed form (Annexure –B) which can be downloaded from our website **www.tansi.tn.gov.in** on or before **15.07.2025.**

The duly filled application in "Annexure B" along with relevant enclosures should be superscribed as "Application for Empanelment of Vendors" for Supply of raw materials as per "Annexure-A" and submitted on or before **16.07.2025** upto **5.30 P.M.**

The selection for empanelment shall be at the sole discretion of the Competent Authority of TANSI Corporate Office, Guindy, Chennai-600 032.

Existing Manufacturing Firms/ Companies/ Vendors/ Distributors/ Dealers are also required to apply afresh empanelment.

Firms / Companies / Vendors / Distributors/ Dealers blacklisted by any Government Department or Government undertaking shall not be eligible to apply.

TANSI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

The Specific format is to be downloaded in TANSI website **www.tansi.tn.gov.in.**

Dated : 16.06.2025 **Principal Secretary / Chairman and Managing Director**

DIPR/ 3003 /TENDER/2025

STATE BANK OF INDIA
SME CENTRE
Lotus, #161, 10th Main Road, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Peenya, Bengaluru – 560 058
Tel No. 080-2839 9007 Fax: 080-2839 9034, E-mail: sbi.15913@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

A/c No.:Inicio /10223420439 **Date: 27.05.2025**

To.

Borrower(s): M/s Perfect Power Control, # 9, Sunkadakatte, Peenya 2nd Stage, Hegganahalli Main Road, Vishwaneedam Post, BANGALORE 560 091.

Partners: 1). Sri. Kunnugal Velayudhan Dharmarajan S/o K R Velayudhan, No.484/A, 1st Stage, 6th Phase, West of Chord Road, Industrial Town, Near Ambedkar Stadium, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore - 560 010.

2).Sri. Kunnugal Jayaraj S/o K V. Dharmarajan No.48G, 1st Stage, 6th Phase, 10 th Cross. Mahaganapathi Nagar, Bangalore- 560010.

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'ACT')

At your request, you have been granted by the Bank, through **STATE BANK OF INDIA, SME CENTRE, BENGALURU,** from time to time, various credit facilities by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favor of the bank. The relevant particulars of the said credit facilities and the security agreement(s) / document(s) executed by you are stated in **Schedule "A"** and **Schedule "B"** respectively excluding pledge of movables. You have availed the financial assistance with an undertaking for repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the said agreement(s) / document (s), the undersigned is competent to issue the notice.

You have also acknowledged subsistence of the liability in respect of the aforesaid credit facilities by executing confirmation of balances and revival letters and other documents from time to time. The operation of and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular and the debt has been classified as **Non-Performing Asset (NPA) on 21.03.2025** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classifications, issued by RBI, consequent to the default committed by you in repayment of principal debt and interest thereon.

The said financial assistance is also secured by mortgage of immovable property by creating mortgage by way of deposit of title deeds creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The documents relating to such mortgage are also stated in Schedule "B". The relevant particulars of the secured assets are specifically stated in **Schedule "C" Part I & II.**

Despite repeated requests, you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues / outstanding liabilities. Therefore, the Bank hereby calls upon you U/s 13(2) of the said Act by issuing this notice to discharge in full your liabilities stated hereunder to the Bank within **60 days** from the date of this notice. Your outstanding liabilities (in aggregate) due and owing to the Bank is in the sum of **Rs 10,83,755.77(Rupees Ten Lacs Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Five And Paise Seventy Seven Only)as on 27.05.2025.** You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc. If you fail to repay to the Bank the aforesaid sum of **Rs.10,83,755.77 (Rupees Ten Lacs Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Five And Paise Seventy Seven Only)** with future interest and incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms of this notice u/s 13(2) of the Act, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub Section (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

You are also put on notice that in terms of Sub Section 13 of Section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease, or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in **Schedule "C"** of this notice without obtaining written consent of the Bank.

The Bank reserves its rights to call upon you to repay the liabilities that may arise under the outstanding Bills Discounted, Bank Guarantees and Letters of Credit issued and established on your behalf as well as other contingent liabilities.

This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable Provisions of Law.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002 where under you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).

The undersigned is the Authorized officer of the Bank and is empowered to issue this notice and exercise powers under section 13 of the aforesaid Act.

SCHEDULE "A"

Sl. No	Nature of Facility	Account Number	Outstanding as on 27.05.2025 (exclusive of interest) (Amount in Rs.)
1.	Cash Credit Account	10223420439	10,83,755.77

Partnership Firm: Manufacturing of plastic components and moulds. **Partners:1.**Sri. Dharmaraju K V & **2.** Sri. Kunnigal Jayaraj

SCHEDULE "B"

Details of Security Documents including all supplementary documents & Documents evidencing creation of mortgage

Sl. No	Name of the Document	Nature of Security	Date of Execution	Amount Secured (Rs in lacs.)
1.	Arrangement letter	Terms and conditions	21.05.1999	15.00
2.	General Agreement for grant of Small Industrial Advance & Hypothecation of movables, Book Debts and other assets	Hypothecation of assets	21.05.1999	15.00
3.	Ancillary Agreement No.2	Hypothecation of assets	21.05.1999	15.00
4.	Guarantee Agreement for Small Industrial Advances	EM of the property	21.05.1999	15.00
5.	Revival Letter	Hypothecation of assets	11.04.2002	15.00
6.	Revival Letter	Hypothecation of assets	27.01.2005	15.00
7.	Revival Letter	Hypothecation of assets.	01.01.2008	15.00
8	Revival Letter	Hypothecation of assets.	19.09.2008	15.00
9	Revival Letter	Hypothecation of assets	06.09.2011	15.00
10	Revival Letter	Hypothecation of assets	04.08.2014	15.00
11	Revival Letter	Hypothecation of assets.	14.12.2015	15.00
12	Arrangement letter	Hypothecation of assets.	14.12.2015	15.00
13	Revival Letter	Hypothecation of assets.	15.09.2018	15.00
14	Arrangement letter	Hypothecation of assets.	04.05.2020	16.50
15	Supplemental Agreement of loan cum Hypothecation (SME 4)	Hypothecation of assets.	04.05.2020	16.50
16	Guarantee Agreement	Hypothecation of assets.	04.05.2020	16.50
17	Memorandum for recording of Extension of Mortgage by Deposit of title deeds covering enhanced limit	EM of the property	04.05.2020	16.50
18	Letter of confirmation for extension of mortgage	EM of the property	04.05.2020	16.50
19	Supplemental Agreement of Loan Cum Hypothecation (SME 4)	Hypothecation of assets.	18.06.2020	19.47
20	Guarantee Agreement (SME 3)	Hypothecation of assets.	18.06.2020	19.47
21	Memorandum of Recording creation of mortgage by deposit of title deeds (SME - 5)	EM of the property	06.11.2020	19.47
22	Arrangement letter (SME -1)	Hypothecation of assets.	14.06.2021	19.04
23	Letter Promising to pay Time Barred Debt.	Hypothecation of assets.	14.06.2021	
24	Arrangement letter (SME -1)	Hypothecation of assets.	12.11.2023	15.00
25	Guarantee Agreement (SME -3)	Hypothecation of assets.	12.11.2023	15.00
26	Link letter (SME -12)	Hypothecation of assets.	12.11.2023	15.00
27	Memorandum for recording of Extension of Mortgage by Deposit of title deeds covering enhanced limit (SME -7)	EM of the property	12.11.2023	16.50
28	Letter of confirmation for extension of mortgagee by deposit of title deeds covering enhanced limit (SME -8)		12.11.2023	16.50
29	Confirmation letter for EM form A		01.06.1996	5.00
30	Extension of EM (Form B)		09.04.1997	11.00
31	Extension of EM (Form B)		30.05.1999	15.00

SCHEDULE "C"

Part – I: (Details of hypothecated properties, viz. Current Asserts including Stocks, Book Debts, Receivables, Consumable Stores & Spares and Hypothecated Movable Plant & Machinery, etc. mentioned in the Documents) (Schedule B)

Hypothecation of stocks, receivables, and other current assets.

Part – II: (Details of the immovable property mortgaged to the Bank as stated in the documents having reference to the mortgage documents/deeds) (Schedule 'B').

Schedule of the property:

All that piece and parcel of houseproperty bearing site No.36 A, Khaneshumari No.288/378 situated at Sanegoruvanahalli village, YeshwanthpurHobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 22 feet, North to South 8 Feet and bounded on : **East by:** Property of Gurushankar, **West by:** Property of Sarojamma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property of C. Madegowda.

Place: BENGALURU **Sd/-**
Date: 27.05.2025 **Authorised Officer & Chief Manager**

₹5.38 L CR Investments in Alternative Investment Funds rise 32% by Mar.

How to maximise your income tax refunds

Experts say taxpayers have to file returns on time and before submitting they need to double-check all details

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE income tax return filing season has started. Filing return is a mandatory requirement for all taxpayers except those whose income does not exceed the basic exemption limit of ₹2.5 lakh per annum under the old tax regime and ₹3 lakh under the new tax regime. ITR not only helps the tax department calculate the real tax liability of a person, it also helps taxpayers to get a refund of taxes paid in excess of their liabilities.

There could be several reasons for a taxpayer to get a refund. When the advance tax paid under self-assessment exceeds the actual tax liability; tax deducted at source (TDS) on income such as salary, interest on securities or debentures, dividends, or other sources is higher than the tax payable; or same income is taxed twice in India and a country with which India has a tax treaty. Also, there could be situations when a correction in the assessment process leads to reduction in tax liability or you may not have reported earlier eligible investments or expenses that qualify for tax deductions.

So, while filing returns, you must take the following steps to maximise your refunds.

File on time: First, always file your return on time. Delaying it not only brings penalties but can also affect your ability to claim certain benefits or carry forward losses.

Claim eligible deductions: Nehal Mota, Co-Founder & CEO, Finnovate, says, "making sure you are claiming all the deductions you're eligible for under the Income Tax Act—things like investments under 80C, health insurance under

80D, NPS under 80CCD(1B), and donations under 80G. These can significantly reduce your taxable income." Rakshith H D, CFP and Head Digital Sales, GoalTeller, advises, if you receive HRA or other allowances like travel and medical, claim them with proper proofs.

Choose right tax regime: Choosing the right tax regime is equally important. New tax regime does not allow deductions on investments and certain expenses. Charu Pahuja, CFP CM, Group Director and COO, Wise Finserv, says one of the first and most important decisions is to choose between the old and new tax regime—an option that can directly affect your home income.

Reconcile tax credits: Don't forget to check your Form 26AS before filing ITR. This is where you can see the tax that's already been deducted from your income. If they've deducted more than necessary, you can claim it back as a refund, but only if you've reported everything correctly. Rakshith H D says don't forget to include all TDS and advance tax paid by employers, banks, or other institutions to ensure accurate refund claims.

Gather all documents: Before filing your income tax return, ensure you have all necessary documents like Form 16, interest certificates, Form 26AS, AIS, and investment details to avoid missing any refund opportunities.

"Report all sources of income, including bank interest or freelance earnings, to avoid future complications," says Rakshith H D of GoalTeller.

Offset losses: If you have incurred losses in stocks or property, set them off against your income to lower tax liability.

Ensure accurate filing: Filing your return early and e-verifying it through Aadhaar OTP or net banking ensures faster processing of refunds. Finally, double-check all details, including PAN, bank account number, before submission to ensure smooth and timely refunds.

IN CONVERSATION

PEMMASANI CHANDRASEKHAR
Minister of State for Communications

'Starlink isn't going to bring millions of customers into fold'

THE Indian telecom sector is 'evolving' despite several challenges it is facing. It is in the middle of a transition from 4G to 5G, satellite communication is becoming a reality, and competition is getting more broad-based. **Rakesh Kumar** caught up with Minister of State for Communications **Pemmasani Chandrasekhar** to get an overall view of the sector. An excerpt:

BSNL has been profitable for the last two consecutive quarters. How did you make that possible?
There is a lot of work going on inside BSNL. We have installed close to 100,000 4G towers in the last 12 months, and around 70,000 of them are active now. All these towers are performing better. So, obviously, we are increasing the customer base. There is a component of that. There is also a component of spending control, and overall efficiency is being improved at BSNL. All these factors have culminated in profitability, but the profit is around ₹250 crore. That's not our target; it's actually just a tipping point. If the 4G rollout goes according to our plan, ideally, we should be generating a lot more revenue and expanding our customer base.

When are you going to stop BSNL subscriber churn?
We are gaining subscribers every month. One major limitation is that BSNL only has 100,000 4G towers. If you look at Reliance and Airtel, they have over 500,000–600,000 towers. After completing installation of 100,000 4G towers, we are going to request approval from the Cabinet for another 100,000 towers. We are focusing on increasing cash flow. Once we boost the cash flow, we will inherently have the opportunity to install more 4G and 5G equipment. We are also monetizing BSNL's assets, which will provide additional funding.

The government has already given licenses to Starlink and two other satellite players. When will the services start?
Granting licenses is our responsibility. The rest is up to Starlink and when they decide to start. I am pretty sure they want to begin as quickly as possible, especially since their basic infrastructure has already been set up. However, it is important to remember that Starlink isn't going to bring millions and millions of customers into the fold. It will play a minor role compared to the rest of the telecom infrastructure. That's because it is expensive, and there will be speed issues. Satellite communication is important as a backup and for some rural areas, where entrepreneurs and others who need a stable and decent connection could benefit. In those areas—like maritime zones and other remote regions—satellite could be very helpful, but it's more of a complementary solution in the overall telecom ecosystem.

The speed of satellite internet is much slower than that of terrestrial networks. Besides, satellite internet is not intended for mobile services.

There were complaints from telcos that satellite services will eat into their business in India.
It won't be like that. It will be a bit more expensive compared to terrestrial networks. The speed of satellite internet is much slower than that of terrestrial networks. Besides, satellite internet is not intended for mobile services; it's only for internet service, at least for now.

Last year, all the telcos increased their tariffs. Are we expecting more increases this year?
If you look at the overall cost, we are much, much cheaper compared to the rest of the world. Obviously, the companies have invested heavily in 5G, and now all these companies are publicly listed, so they have their own concerns regarding growth. But at the same time, if there is effective competition—whether it's Vodafone Idea or BSNL—pricing will naturally come back to a more normal level. The key here is to ensure at least three or four highly effective players remain in the market.

There are questions about the quality of services provided by telcos in the country.
We are taking a closer look at the quality of service in the country now. We used to monitor and report on a quarterly basis, but now we've changed it to monthly reports.

MONEY-WISE

INVESTORS NEED TO BUILD RESILIENCE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

MOST of us want some certainty in our planning. We want to know that this decision will turn out right, or that they will be able to achieve this or that goal. The best investing happens when you, in fact, acknowledge that you can't be certain, find a way to be okay with that, and invest. If you plan for a 30-year retirement from age 65 to 95 years, but live till age 114, how prepared can you be? Even worse, imagine how much more can happen if you are currently 35 years old and trying to make financial decisions that can impact the rest of your life.

Planning is knowing that the market will be wavy, will have a high standard deviation and the following questions are so relevant!

- Do you want to get married? Have a kid?
- Do you want to buy a home? What will interest rates be in 5 years?
- Will your company go IPO?

I don't know. You don't know. Nobody knows. Now look at the events that happened in the last 5 years:

- Did you expect your company's share to fall 25% as soon as you EXERCISED your option?

We keep craving for certainty, but don't have it.

In the Lieu of Certainty, Manage Risks and Build Resilience.

If we can't know what will happen, and we're afraid that we won't be prepared for whatever does happen, it strikes me that we need to make ourselves generally resilient, in the spirit of preparing us for…whatever.

Financial planning is a combination of managing risks, building resilience, and planning for opportunities.

How do you manage risks in your financial life?

- Build a robust cash cushion. Save more than you think you need to.
- Get the right insurance policies: life, health, disability, auto, etc.
- Draft your estate planning documents with a good lawyer
- Get other legal documents drafted whenever you're engaging in a big financial transaction.

Build Resilience Outside of Your Money.

We need to build on our relationships, education and skills, hobbies (creativity), network of friends, colleagues, relatives, and build good health. Pulling from my own work and through my work with clients, here are some ideas about non-financial ways to build resilience:

- Meditate. Journal. Spend time in the forests looking for lions and tigers!
- Friendships—school, College, etc.
- Career-manage expectations
- Physical health. Eat right. Move your body. Pump iron
- Cognitive health. Do crossword puzzles and Wordle every day. Read books, take classes about interesting subjects. In addition to being good things in and of themselves, all these are something that you can control. You can't control what interest rates are, what the climate does, what other people do, etc.

After all this we rely on our ability to figure it out as we embark on the journey as it unfolds.

Uncertainty is scary, unpleasant and unavoidable.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY URBAN INDIA'S WOES HURTING GROWTH

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE Indian urban consumer is struggling. Several indicators show that those in urban India are saving money and not spending. That happens when you are struggling with your income or face uncertainty. A survey by Kantar, a global research firm, showed growth in consumer companies by large established companies (HUL, Marico, Godrej, Dabur), which were growing relatively slower than lesser-known companies or brands. The unorganized sector grew even faster. That is a phenomenon called downtrading.

The consumer chooses cheaper products or services than before to manage spending. That activity is an indicator of a wage growth slowdown. That does not bode well for companies that rely on largely urban and rural consumption, as two-thirds of India's gross domestic product is led by it. Urban consumption means rich, middle-income people in urban areas spend money on food, entertainment, travel, and other discretionary expenditures for comfort.

Suppose you are a consumer in rural or urban India. In that case, you decide your consumption on your long-term average income and not on the current income patterns, according to one economic theory. If you are confident of your future income, you steadily increase your spending on consumption items. If the wage growth is likely to be weak, you slow down.

Information is a key to your wealth. The more you learn and understand how the economy works, the better sense you can make of the market and money situation. The quarterly results season ended in May 2025. Besides that, a lot of information was published by the Reserve Bank of India in the monetary policy report about economic growth and inflation outlook.

The RBI also wrote extensively about it in the annual report released towards the end of May 2025. The government also puts out information on industrial production and related data.

According to the latest analysis by India Ratings, an affiliate of global credit ratings agency FITCH, wage growth in India will likely remain flat in 2025-26. The wage growth in India's economy was primarily driven by economic growth. There are two significant indicators of a slowdown. One is in the housing sector. Sales of luxury homes moderated after the pent-up demand peaked, according to India Ratings. The IT sector faced technological changes due to the advent of artificial intelligence. That has further hurt employment and salary prospects. The poor wage growth is also a function of companies choosing not to spend money on expansion or new job creation.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

There is something not adding up. Two areas drive a sustainable demand in an economy. One is the spending by households, and the second is the investment by the corporate sector. The aggregate household wealth was never as high as it is now. According to the National Stock Exchange data, the holding of individual investors in equity markets is at a record high, adding over half a trillion dollars to household wealth over the past five years.

Benchmark indices are not far away from their historic highs. The urban wealthy consumer class has never had it better than now. Yet, the middle class in cities seems to be struggling. The benefits of personal income tax breaks extended in the Budget 2025 will be available for the middle class this year. However, if the middle class is unsure about their future income, they will continue to cut spending, which could continue to hurt the economy.

Two weeks ago, this column spoke about India's growth story's headwinds. The income crisis for the middle class due to dim job prospects is hurting India's economy. It is time for everyone to think differently. Creating multiple income streams or businesses that solve new problems could be one way out. It is a structural issue and is unlikely to go away soon.

SpiceJet offers equity to Carlyle against $121 mn lease obligations

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DEBT-RIDDEN budget airline SpiceJet Limited will issue equity shares of the company to Carlyle Aviation Management Limited (CAML) in lieu of outstanding aircraft lease obligations totalling $121 million as of March 31, 2025. This agreement aims to deleverage the airline's financial statements and represents a crucial step in its ongoing efforts to stabilize its operations.

The proposed "transaction," as outlined in the filing with BSE, involves restructuring these arrears primarily through the issuance of equity shares of SpiceJet to Carlyle Aviation, or its managed lessor entities. The equity shares will be issued at a price of ₹65 per share, or as per SEBI preferential issue guidelines, subject to an aggregate amount of $50 million. A key condition is that Carlyle Aviation's shareholding will not exceed 10% of SpiceJet's share capital upon issuance.

According to SpiceJet, the primary reason for this restructuring is to "completely restructure the outstanding arrears due to the Lessors, thereby deleveraging Company's financial statements." Beyond the issuance of securities, the term sheet also includes provisions for a comprehensive review of existing lease agreements. This review will encompass mutually acceptable terms and durations, including potential extensions of lease periods, administration of engine overhauls, adjustments to maintenance reserves, facilitating the return to service of grounded aircraft, establishing credit lines, and updating and harmonizing redelivery conditions.

Former CEO sues RR Kabel, seeks ₹25 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

RR Kabel Limited on Sunday informed the exchanges that its former CEO, Dinesh Aggarwal, has filed a commercial suit seeking a damage of ₹25 crore against the company before the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, alleging premature and wrongful termination of his employment. The suit, served upon RR Kabel on June 14, 2025, seeks substantial damages.

Aggarwal in his lawsuit primarily argues that the termination of his employment was premature, wrongful, and illegal, and sought damages for the alleged wrongful termination of an agreement dated December 16, 2022, under which he was appointed as CEO.

Hero FinCorp garners ₹260 crore from investors

PTI @ New Delhi

Hero FinCorp, the financial services division of two-wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp, has raised ₹260 crore in a pre-IPO placement round.

This fund mobilisation led to a reduction in fresh issue size to ₹1,840 crore from the earlier planned ₹2,100 crore.

The total IPO size now stands at ₹3,408 crore, which includes a ₹1,568 crore offer-for-sale (OFS) by existing investors. This marks a reduction from the earlier planned ₹3,668 crore. Those selling shares in the OFS are—AHVF II Holdings Singapore II Pte. Ltd, Apis Growth II (Hibiscus) Pte. Ltd, Link Investment Trust (through Vikas Srivastava) and Otter Ltd. In the pre-IPO round executed on June 5, Hero FinCorp entered into investment agreements with 12 investors, allotting 18.57 lakh shares at ₹1,400 per share on June 13, raising ₹259.99 crore, according to a public announcement by the company.

Under this, the company allotted shares worth ₹69 crore to Shahi Exports, RVG Jatropha Plantation (₹50 crore), Mohan Exports (₹25 crore), and AP Properties (₹22 crore).

Additional participants in the round were Vivek Chaand Sehgal, Paramount Products, Tiger Laser Pte, Virender Uppal, Laksh Vaaman Sehgal, Renu Sehgal Trust, Yugal Chit Fund, and LC Hercules (Cayman).

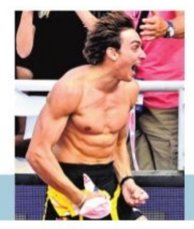
AI: Caregiver assigned to every affected family

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Air India on Sunday said that more than 400 family members of the deceased passengers and crew members have reached Ahmedabad and are being assisted by their teams on the ground. It added that every affected family in Ahmedabad has been assigned at least one caregiver by Air India and the solemn process of handing over the mortal remains and their personal effects to the next of kin is ongoing.

"We have established contact with the next of kin/relatives of all passengers and crew members, expressing our condolences and helping them with the next steps. Over 400 family members have reached Ahmedabad," the airline said.

Duplantis increases pole vault WR to 6.28m



Swedish double Olympic pole vault champion Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis bettered his existing world record by a centimetre on Sunday as he cleared 6.28 metres at the Stockholm Diamond League meet. With victory already guaranteed, Duplantis broke the world record for the 12th time as he soared over the bar at the first attempt to improve on his 6.27m effort in February.

RAINBOW NATION REJOICE

Ex-coach Domingo & former all-rounder Peterson make sense of what the WTC win means

GOMESH S @ Chennai

(Top) South Africa team, led by Temba Bavuma (C) at the Lords balcony; (Left) Aiden Markram shares a beer with his school friend after the WTC final win; Pacer Kagiso Rabada with an emotional Keshav Maharaj on Saturday | AFP/ICC

AS a teary-eyed Keshav Maharaj was embraced and held tight on his shoulders by former South Africa captain-turned-commentator Graeme Smith on Saturday, Russell Domingo felt the same emotion watching it on television miles away, back home. Maharaj's Test debut came at Perth when Domingo was the head coach of the South African team. And he was not the only one to feel such emotions. Smith, Shaun Pollock, AB de Villiers and several former cricketers, friends and family of the current team, led by Temba Bavuma, were either in the stands or the commentary box of Lords cherishing the moment they and the millions of people back home had yearned and longed for years. South Africa are the World Champions in Test cricket.

Former Proteas coach Robin Peterson, who was supposed to be there but could not, was enjoying the moment too. He knew it would mean everything to Bavuma, who sat serene, heads down, while everyone around rose in jubilation when the winning runs were hit. The captain took a couple of moments before standing up and giving a fist bump, which was more than just that. It was a statement and more. ""It will be a great moment for Temba and his family. It's a great South African story. We will continue to have more of these stories going forward now with and the amount of kids that were watching and interested today in Test cricket, I mean these kids are they probably don't understand this cricket, but to watch six and seven year olds actually sit and watch today was really something to see," says Peterson.

Test cricket domination is not new to South Africa. They were a powerhouse under Smith with their golden generation stamping their authority all over the coach. They have held the Test mace, based on rankings back then, on several occasions and both Domingo, who was the coach, and Peterson knows what it feels like. This one is different in a way that it came with a knockout game, they were down and out after two days, the C-tag was used, again, but Aiden Markram, and Bavuma led the way back to glory. Shortly after the result was sealed, Markram ran to the boundary ropes to meet a school friend who had offered him a beer. He drank it in celebration with the fans before joining the team. Then there was Kagiso Rabada who came in with the controversy of his suspension due to recreational drug use and delivered when it mattered the most. "We have done some incredible things as a Test nation and you saw a little bit of that DNA that came through in that final. When it counted we were able to do it. We may not do it in white-ball as we should, but certainly in Test cricket, when it comes to big matches, I think South Africa can deliver," says Peterson. "They (players) know in South Africa with our history, how important success on the cricket field is for our general psyche in our country. These players are the face of the team at the moment like, I suppose, Smith, Jacques Kallis, De Villiers, Hashim Amla were for a period of time. It's now the time for Rabada, Bavuma, Maharaj, Marco Jansen, Markham, and all these guys to get their time in the sun. So it's generation to generation," explains Domingo.

In all the celebration, the fact that South Africa men will not play a home Test till December 2026 hits hard. This summer, there will be the SA20 league followed by the T20 World Cup in India after their away tours. Both Domingo and Peterson hope that the number of Test South Africa get to play will go up in the next FTP cycle. "Yeah, let's hope so. South Africa has always been a big ticket team. They used to play four Test matches against England, India, and Australia. Now they're playing two Tests. Hopefully this will sort of want other teams to play against us more as well. Because if they want to test themselves, they're going to test themselves against the best," says Domingo. "I think that team holds Test cricket very dearly to their hearts. They want to play test cricket. This would only reignite them to go again and I know that management staff will. They won't be satisfied with this title. They will celebrate it and understand the enormity. But in their minds, this is only a start to where they want to go. It would be nice if they could play a lot more Test cricket," Peterson adds.

All that is for the future. For now, Domingo, Peterson, and the rainbow nation will be celebrating Temba's men. For they have made South Africa World Champions.

INTERVIEW

'HOPE TO BRING TT BACK TO ITS FORMER GLORY'

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Ahmedabad

VITA Dani, an entrepreneur who co-founded Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) — a franchise-based table tennis tournament played annually, is delighted with how the sixth season has transpired.

With the Asian Games and Olympics set to happen in the next few years, she felt the players are making notable progress. In a free-wheeling chat with this daily, Dani, who also co-owns the Indian Super League outfit Chennaiyin FC, spoke about the league's growth and its ambitions and she also touched upon the role of sports entrepreneurship in the country. *Excerpts*:

● On how the sixth season of UTT has fared

Each year, UTT is doing better than the previous year. Continuation of our sponsors is one more reflection of it. And I think Mr (Niraj) Bajaj (fellow co-founder) and I have a common dream that we want to do this for Indian table tennis now to make sure we take it to its former glory in the 1970s. This was when people gathered outside arenas to watch table tennis. We will do whatever it takes to bring that similar feeling back. I'm very happy with the way the league is going. The semifinals (played on Friday and Saturday), I thought I had to keep some ambulances and doctors on standby! There was so much excitement.

● On league's fan-following

Of course, our numbers on social media have gone up, and also our attendance in the stadium has gone up. And all this, I think, is because of the introduction of the Golden point, which is creating so much excitement,and the introduction of mixed doubles, which is now going to be introduced at the Olympics, and also the (Table Tennis) World Championship. These are the things which are making the game more exciting, and people want to watch it. We still have a lot of distance to cover. We will also get players from lots of different countries and different continents, so that many more followers will also get added each year. We just have to keep trying hard and see how we can grow and make this better.

● On ideas for UTT 7 and the following seasons

This year, we have introduced the junior league, and I think it has created a lot of excitement. It also becomes aspirational for those young players to be part of the senior league and that's what we want. We want to create this pipeline of players, and we want to create a situation where it's not only inspirational, but also aspirational for people to start playing table tennis. So this is one change, of course, the Golden point has been magical, and we are still trying to see how we can make this format more exciting.

● On the likely challenges for the league

I must say, when Niraj Bajaj and I got in to promote UTT — of course, we all have to be financially viable, but we know that in our country, unless and until we get media rights, broadcast rights and a lot more sponsorship, it's a distant dream. And for me, return on investment (ROI), is how we do well as a country, how our players do well at the global level, and that's more important for me. It is important that my franchisees make money before we do and that's why our model is low cost. It's more cost effective, and it encourages the franchisees to stay on so we have interest from more people to come into the game.

● On how the ecosystem of sports entrepreneurship and its impact in the country

I think there is no better time than now to promote sports. The government has come forth, supported sport at the national level, and we have realised what is the importance of sports in life. COVID came at a time where we realized how physical well-being is also equally important. If we are saying that we cannot produce champions in a country of a billion, then we need to work on our system. We are doing whatever we need to create that system for champions. And UTT is one of the attempts in that direction. We want to give players the highest exposure, a platform. And we get international coaches and international players. When our players, who may or may not have as much opportunity to go and play overseas, get this chance to play with them, against them, right here in their backyard, I think that's a great exposure for them. I think it's one of the blocks whereby players, when they defeat a higher-ranked player, be it international or domestic, they have this renewed energy. And I think that's important, and that's important for any player, for any game. So that has helped the entire ecosystem. When you do a league like this, then you are bringing in lots of pieces for the entire sporting landscape, be it the physical fitness trainer, mental fitness trainer, the kind of infrastructure, coaches and a sparring partner. Now, this only helps the game, it only helps the player. So we are happy with the way this is going, and we do hope that we can produce even more and bigger champions in table tennis.

● On Indian TT players' chances at the 2026 Asiad & 2028 Olympics

As a country, I think our players are doing really well at the Olympics. We were so close. And I don't see it as a dejection, but I see it as an encouragement that if we are there, we know that next time we can do it. As far as LA is concerned, I think we still have a lot of time, and for that, we have started with younger players. I'm sure some of them will make India proud, make us all proud.

Full story: newindianexpres.com

> *We are happy with the way this (UTT) is going, and we do hope that we can produce even more and bigger champions in table tennis.*
> — Vita Dani, UTT co-founder

EXPRESS READ

FIH Pro League: Indian hockey teams suffer

LONDON: The Indian women's hockey team put up a strong fight against Australia but conceded a last-minute goal to lose 1-2 in its FIH Pro League match here on Sunday. Meanwhile in Antwerp (Belgium), the India men lost 2-3 to Australia on Sunday.

MGD1 in KO Rd of World Blitz Team chess

LONDON: A day after becoming the first Indian side to clinch the FIDE World Rapid Team Championship title, Team MGD1 gave another commanding performance to secure a spot in the knockout round of the 'Blitz' tournament.

Mansi set for junior Asian Championship

NEW DELHI: Mansi Lather on Sunday booked her ticket to the U20 Asian Championship to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from July 5-13, after winning the trials in the women's 68kg category here. Mansie prevailed over Delhi's Srishti in the final.

'Want to build secure environment'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

India captain Shubman Gill during the intra-squad game | BCCI

INDIA Test captain Shubman Gill has said that he wants to build a team culture where everyone is happy and secure. The 25-year-old Punjab batter will lead the country in the longest format for the first time in England this Friday.

Ahead of the five-Test series, Gill said that he never dreamt of captaining India. "So, apart from all the silverware and trophies aside, I really would like to build a team culture where everyone is very secure and happy," Gill told Skysports, the official home broadcaster.

"I know it can be a very difficult environment, especially with all the competition and the number of matches that we play, different squads coming in. But if I'm able to do that, I think that would be my goal. So, keeping a secure environment and making the player feel secure in his abilities and his capabilities I feel is one of the most important things that a leader has to do."

He also shed light on the conversations he had with head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar before taking up the job. "They just want me to be able to express myself as a leader. I mean, that's what they have told me, there are no expectations. They are not expecting me to, you know, to do something that I'm not capable of.

"But you definitely have some kind of expectations from yourself as a leader and as a player. So those are the expectations that I have from myself," he said.

Kuldeep optimistic

Meanwhile, wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav felt that the conditions in the UK have been favourable for spinners so far. "The wickets are looking good for spinners. It has been good for batting (in intra-squad game here). First day there was moisture, seamers got help but as the game progressed, spinners got in the game," Kuldeep said on the sidelines of the intra-squad game in Beckenham.

"There is bounce for spinners on this surface. Today is day three, I am yet to bowl. The ball is turning a bit and I hope it is the same in the series as well," said Kuldeep. "We have played a lot of T20 cricket in the last four-five months. Fast bowlers are told to bowl at least 15-20 overs for the Test match build-up. Same for spinners, the more they bowl the better for them," he added.

Club World Cup: Messi denied late winner

AGENCIES @ Miami Gardens

Inter Miami's Lionel Messi tries to hit a shot against Al Ahly on Saturday | AP

LIONEL Messi and Inter Miami were held to a 0-0 draw by Egyptian side Al Ahly on Saturday as FIFA's new 32-team tournament got off to a smooth start in front of 60,927 fans in Florida. Messi was denied a storybook stoppage-time winner when he saw his curling shot from 20 yards out tipped on to the bar by Mohamed El Shenawy as Miami piled on the pressure in the final minutes of the game.

Al Ahly, who were cheered on by over 10,000 of their supporters, were left to rue a first-half penalty from Egypt international Trezeguet which was saved by Miami's Argentine keeper Oscar Ustari. But the Egyptians also had El Shenawy to thank for another fine save in the dying seconds to keep out a header from Maxi Falcon as Miami pushed for three points in the Group A clash. For organisers FIFA, who have faced heavy skepticism over the necessity for the tournament, the absence of a goal was the only disappointment on a night that delivered everything else that their president Gianni Infantino had hoped for from the opening night.

Fears of a low crowd for the opener eased as the seats in the 64,000 venue began to fill up with the stadium almost full at kick-off time. Thousands of fans of Al Ahly arrived at Hard Rock Stadium well ahead of kick-off and made their presence felt with singing and chanting.

U Mumba, the ultimate champions

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Ahmedabad

U Mumba TT team celebrates after winning the 2025 UTT season | ASHWIN PRASATH

BERNADETTE Szocs generated plenty of buzz on Sunday. The paddler from Romania put up a five-star performance to help U Mumba TT clinch their first-ever title at the Ultimate Table Tennis at the EKA Arena here. PB Abhinandh, who was playing the fourth match of the Mumba's final meeting against Jaipur Patriots, was involved during the winning moment. Having conceded the opening two games against Jeet Chandra, Abhinandh won the third game to seal the title.

Abhinandh might have helped U Mumba cross the finish line but it was Bernadette who was the standout for the champions.

Thanks to the Romanian pro's exploits, U Mumba had taken a massive 7-2 lead before Abhinandh went on to apply the finishing touches.

U Mumba's ascendancy in the decider began with Bernadette's game against Sreeja Akula. Bernadette won the first game by a narrow margin (11-9). The Indian paddler fought back and captured the second game with a golden point. However, Sreeja ran out of steam and her Romanian opponent used that to her advantage to bag the crucial third game.

In the following mixed doubles match, Bernadette, along with Indian paddler Akash Pal, dominated against Jaipur's Jeet and Britt Eerland. Bernadette and Akash were relentless and didn't allow their opponents any breathing space. Jeet clearly seemed rattled because of the pressure and was also guilty of conceding some cheap points. Bernadette and Akash's dominant 3-0 victory propelled U Mumba closer to the title.

Before Bernadette came to the fore, it was Lilian Bardet of France who had laid the platform for U Mumba with a crucial 2-1 win over Kanak Jha (USA).

In the second singles match, Jeet did well to keep Jaipur alive for some time by pocketing the first two games against Abhinandh. However, Abhinand ensured that the final didn't go to the fifth match by winning the final game 11-8. Yashaswini Ghorpade would have taken on Pritha Varthikar if Jeet had made a clean sweep against Abhinandh.

U Mumba coach John Murphy was certainly impressed by the final outcome. "To win in four hours, not leading the last match just shows how good a performance it was," he told reporters post-match.

He also commended Bernadette. "Look, Bernie won five points today (Sunday). That was part of our team talk today. We have, for me, probably the best player in the tournament, someone who performed both in singles and mixed doubles and our line-up," he said.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU, MONDAY
16.06.2025

EDUCATION EXPRESS
edex YOUR LIFE COACH

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

SUPREME COURT AOR EXAM
Date: June 16 to June 21, 2025

UPSC COMBINED GEO-SCIENTIST
Date: June 21 & 22, 2025

UNION BANK ASSISTANT MANAGER
Date: June 22, 2025

newindianexpress.com

12

FROM DESERT INNOVATION TO GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

IIT JODHPUR'S REMARKABLE RISE

Rising in national rankings while pioneering AI education and sustainable campus design, IIT Jodhpur is facilitating innovation that meets culture, shaping the next gen, finds Saumya Solanki

What's fun on campus

Best dish in the canteen: At Student Mess, paneer butter masala, rajma chawal, and chane kulche

Most awesome informal tradition: The freshers' orientation

Most instagram-worthy spot on campus: The Brain and Tree Circle

Best spot to hang out for students on campus: The Shamiyana

Most competitive club or society: The Programming Club, Music club

Best time to be on campus: November to February. Prometeo — technical & entrepreneurial fest plus Ignus — cultural festival

NOTABLE ALUMNI

GURJOT SINGH
- Class of 2015 | BTech, System Science
- Vice-President, Deutsche Bank

LAL CHAND BISU
- Class of 2012 | BTech, Electrical Engineering
- Co-Founder & CEO, Kuku FM

SHIVANSH CHAUDHARY
- Class of 2012 | BTech, Electrical Engineering
- Senior Director, Salesforce AI

NIRMAL KUMAWAT
- Class of 2012 | BTech, Computer Science & Engineering
- Engineer, Airbnb

SURAJ NADIPELLY
- Class of 2012 | BTech, Electrical Engineering
- Director, AlphaAdvisors

DARSHAN JOSHI
- Class of 2013 | BTech, Electrical Engineering
- Partner at McKinsey & Company

SANJAY KUMAR RAV
- Class of 2013 | BTech, Computer Science & Engineering
- Deputy Commissioner-Indian Revenue Service

NALOK YADAV
- Class of 2012 | BTech, Computer Science & Engineering
- Vice-Chairperson, Jhansi Development Authority

'IIT Jodhpur is nurturing visionary leaders who will drive India's progress'

From pioneering AI education to building a desert-smart sustainable campus, IIT Jodhpur's Director, Professor Avinash Kumar Agarwal, reveals how the institute jumped 15 places in NIRF rankings while nurturing India's future tech leaders

● IIT Jodhpur has shown remarkable improvement in its NIRF Engineering rankings, moving from 43rd to 28th position in three years. What key initiatives do you credit for this?
IIT Jodhpur's ascent in the NIRF Engineering rankings is a testament to our strategic emphasis on interdisciplinary education, research excellence, and robust industry collaboration.

Our focus on research has led to the establishment of centres like the Center for Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development (CETSD). We plan to enhance global collaborations, invest in cutting-edge research infrastructure, and continue to attract top-tier faculty and students.

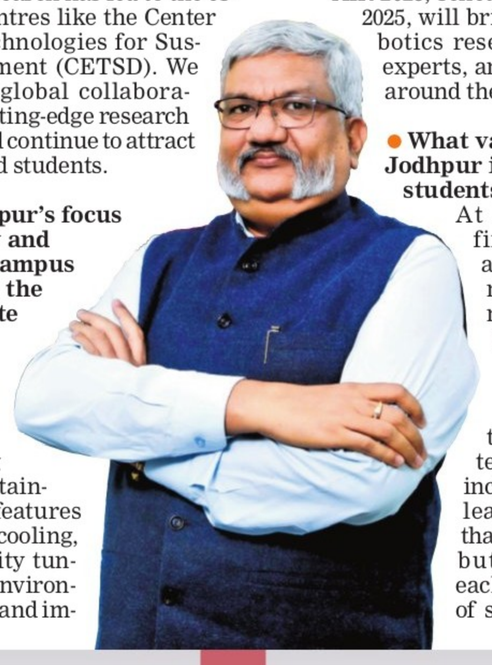
● Given IIT Jodhpur's focus on sustainability and award-winning campus design, how does the institute integrate environmental responsibility into academics?
The institute's campus is designed as a living laboratory for sustainable practices. It features berms for passive cooling, underground utility tunnels to minimise environmental disruption and improve maintenance efficiency, and Amrit Kunds for water harvesting and groundwater recharge — all of which contribute to a reduced ecological footprint in the arid landscape of Rajasthan.

● With IIT Jodhpur hosting major international conferences like THRIVE 2025 and AIR 2025, how do these events contribute to the institute's global reputation?
IIT Jodhpur's role as host of globally significant conferences like THRIVE 2025 in partnership with Indian National Science Academy (INSA) (focused on sustainability transitions) and AIR 2025 – Advances in Robotics, the 7th International Conference of The Robotics Society, reflects the institute's growing stature as a thought leader in technology and innovation.

AIR 2025, scheduled from July 2-5, 2025, will bring together top robotics researchers, industry experts, and innovators from around the world.

● What values does IIT Jodhpur instill in its students?
At IIT Jodhpur, we firmly believe that academic excellence must be complemented by character, empathy, and a deep sense of responsibility.

The institute fosters a culture of integrity, innovation, inclusivity, and ethical leadership — values that are not just taught but experienced in each and every aspect of student life.



ICONIC EVENTS & FESTS

Fests where innovation meets culture and competition as well

From vibrant cultural celebrations to cutting-edge tech showcases, India's premier engineering institute hosts festivals that unite creativity, entrepreneurship, and athletic excellence under one roof

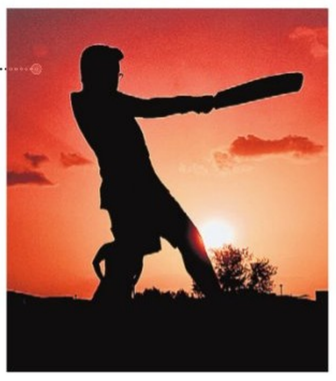
IGNUS
Ignus is the vibrant **socio-cultural fest** of IIT Jodhpur, which celebrates the essence of art, culture, and pluralism. A plethora of creative performances, diverse events, and engaging workshops present a unique combination that brings together talent and ideas from every nook and corner of the country.

PROMETEO
Prometeo is the technical and entrepreneurial festival which features **workshops**, competitions, talks focused on disruptive technologies and a lot more.

VARCHAS
Varchas is the annual sports fest, known as the largest **sports fest** in North West India.

SPANDAN
Spandan is the **intra-college cultural fest,** offering competitions in drama, dance, singing, and more.

Food Court



PLACEMENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Recruiting mode: Hybrid model adopted for placement season; mix of virtual and on-campus drives.

Participating companies: Over 250+ organisations, including MNCs, start-ups, PSUs, and core sector firms.

Number of offers: 450+ placement offers extended (process ongoing).

Internship and placement drives: 250+ companies participated.

Top recruiters: Microsoft, Google, Zomato, CISCO, TCS, Infosys, Accenture, ICICI Bank, HCL Tech, Cognizant, EY, Capgemini, DE Shaw, Arcesium, Maruti Suzuki, Royal Enfield, L&T, and more.

New recruiters on-boarded: Goldman Sachs, Caterpillar, Hyundai Motors, Birla Group, MathWorks, LTI Mindtree, Adverb, PradhiAI, Morabu.

HIGHEST PACKAGES

₹1.1 Cr per annum	₹24.1 LPA	₹24.8 LPA
BTech	MTech	MBA

Core sector compensation: Remained largely flat, contributing to mismatch with rising student expectations.

Post-COVID shift: Return to in-person hiring by several companies for better candidate assessment.

Selective recruitment: Higher emphasis on skills, domain expertise, and performance in interviews.

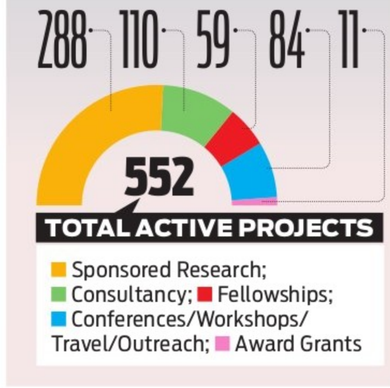
Industry trends: Surge in demand for AI, data science, and tech-based roles.

Student response: Increased competition and interest in future-ready, interdisciplinary roles.

Preparation initiatives
- Career development workshops
- Soft skills & interview training
- Mock interviews and leadership talks

Long-term challenge: Bridging the gap between student aspirations and real-world hiring patterns, especially in traditional engineering roles.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



THRUST RESEARCH AREAS

1. Defence technologies
- Desert warfare & terrain modeling
- Land mine detection
- Stealth and omni mobility systems

2. AI & cybersecurity
- Generative & responsible AI
- Cryptography, AIoT, edge intelligence
- Cyber physical systems, medical imaging

3. Robotics & UAVs
- Space & underwater robotics
- Robotic surgery, drone surveillance
- Autonomous navigation systems

4. Energy & environment
- Hydrogen storage, carbon capture
- Biofuels, smart grid, environmental bioremediation
- Air quality monitoring

5. Sustainability
- Water management, climate adaptation
- Sustainable agriculture, habitats
- Indigenous arts, sand dune migration

6. Medical technology
- AI in medicine, diagnostics, therapeutics
- Medical devices & implants

7. Basic Sciences & Engineering
- Biophysics, spectroscopy, plasma physics
- Organic synthesis, astrophysics
- Nano theranostics & molecular physiology

8. Emerging Technologies
- Blockchain, FinTech, quantum computing
- Metaverse, 6G, smart manufacturing
- Ayurgenomics, assistive technologies

Not only is IIT Jodhpur rapidly emerging as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and translational research, fully aligned with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, it is also a bustling and thriving cultural and extra-curricular hub

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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16.06.2025
MONDAY

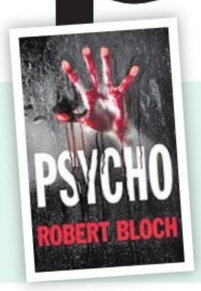
DAY'S DIARY

Movie premiere

On this day in 1960, the psychological horror film *Psycho*, directed by Alfred Hitchcock, premiered in New York City

THE PLOT

Based on Robert Bloch's novel inspired by real-life criminal Ed Gein, the film follows the disturbing story of Norman Bates, a troubled motel owner



RESPONSE

Psycho elevated Hitchcock's status as a master filmmaker and influenced the broader landscape of cinema, paving the way for complex storytelling

INTRODUCTION TO BOOK

Hitchcock first became aware of Bloch's book after reading Anthony Boucher's April 1959 review of it in the *New York Times* Book Review

What's hot in the city?

PG 2

PIC: ROBIN JOSEPH

'I AM POSSESSIVE ABOUT ALL MY TRACKS'

Popular musician Job Kurian gets candid about his recent show in the city, singing in Kannada, keeping up with trends, and what keeps him going as he completes two decades in the industry

ANJALI RAM

SOME journeys don't begin with grand plans – they start with a small, quiet passion. For singer-composer **Job Kurian** music was one such journey inward, an interest that slowly grew to be a means to understand life, connect with others, and stay honest with oneself. "I always wanted to compose my own songs and perform them. I wanted to do it independently," he notes as he completes almost two decades of his musical pursuit.

Speaking with *CE* ahead of his show yesterday, when asked about what the audience can expect as he performs in the city after almost a year, Kurian kept it classic. "It will be mostly my original songs. I'll play my self-composed tracks – I'll play *Padayatra*, *Bhaavam*, *Roots*, *Kannodu*. But there are some that I have sung in the movies like *Manikyachirakulla* and *Aaranne*. It depends on the mood and request," he explains, adding "Bengaluru has received our original compositions in a good way all these years. Being an indie artiste, my priority is always my original compositions. I have tried to bring that to the audience all my life; cinema has been an added aspect to my career. I totally respect that." For Kurian, who finished his engineering degree in Karnataka, performing in Bengaluru is like coming home. "I did my engineering graduation from Hassan. I speak a bit of Kannada. Actually, I sing in Kannada too," he confides.

While singing was a dream inculcated by his parents from childhood, Kurian recalls, "Back then, we didn't think of it as a career. With that interest, I started listening to music which is my main feature. I still like to listen to music. Then I slowly became open to a lot of genres." The breakthrough came with the reality show *Superstar* on Amrita TV, which he calls a 'catalyst' for him. "People recognised me. That was the biggest recognition. In parallel, I could confidently release my tracks since I had an audience that knew me. Mostly, if you notice, all my tracks are biographical in nature. So, my dream was to make my own experiences into music and present it to the audience. That's how I keep doing things now," Kurian emphasises. His recently-released track, *Nizhal*, is one such story that travels through layers of human relationships. Besides this, his approach to music is fluid and organic. "Nothing is planned in music. It's a flow. When you don't know anything else other than music, you just have to do that. I've never been half-hearted in my approach." This, he believes to be his inspiration.

Reflecting further on his creative process, he shares, "If you put the effort in one direction, some other time it will pop up. In my case, it happened like that. Recently, *Kannodu*, a song I did nine years ago, just popped up on social media. If I do a song, I move on to the next one. I don't think about the result. It's not a conscious decision. But when you put 110 per cent for something, it's just going to come some way or the other."

As he finishes two decades in the industry, his approach towards making music remains the same. "I'm a bit possessive about all my tracks. I look at my happiness first. I look at myself first. I should feel that I'm happy and full. I should connect with my tracks. That way, I can be genuine to the audience. That's my policy. You don't go with the trend. It keeps changing. You just have to follow your heart," he signs off.

> *Nothing is planned in music. It's a flow. When you don't know anything else other than music, you just have to do that. I've never been half-hearted in my approach*
>
> Job Kurian, musician

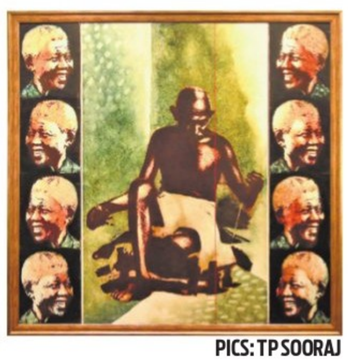
A master's strokes

RIYA MENDALIN

LONG before Yusuf Arakkal's canvases found their place in galleries across the globe, his life began with loss, escape, and an unrelenting hunger to express. Orphaned at the age of seven and sent away to a boarding school, he 'fled' from Kozhikode to Bengaluru as a teenager, not in search of fame – but emancipation. Now, Yusuf, the late master of brooding canvases and silent cries, returned to Kochi at Durbar Hall Art Gallery – not in person, but through an retrospective exhibition that feels more like a homecoming.

That journey, marked by struggle, survival, and the solitude – etched itself permanently into his art. His figures were rarely whole. Often bald, genderless, hunched or expressionless, they stood like echoes of those society forgets. "He always said that figure was himself," says Sara Arakkal, his wife and curator of his legacy. "He was not bald. He was not a woman. But he saw himself in all the disregarded."

Over the next five decades, Yusuf would become one of India's most compelling modern artists, not only for his technical brilliance but for his insistence on portraying the invisible. His subjects were migrants, daily-wage workers, refugees, crying children...They spoke not in slogans but in sighs. "He gave dignity to those who have none, he painted their silences." Sara says. "Though his artistic core was forged in solitude, his career blossomed with recognition. After receiving his diploma in painting from Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath in 1973, Yusuf's work would go on to be exhibited in New York, Paris, London, and Singapore. Among his many accolades are the National Award (1983), the Karnataka Lalit Kala Akademi Award, and the Lorenzo de Medici Gold Medal at the Florence Biennale.

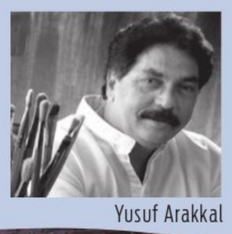


PICS: TP SOORAJ

Yet to Sara, his greatest masterpiece wasn't a particular painting, but the spirit behind them. "His life was art. His breath was art," she says. "He never did it for success. Even when we had nothing, he would still paint."

He worked as a technician in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), but later quit the job to pursuit the creative calling. He was a sculptor, poet, and a thinker – a man who carried within him both machinery and mysticism. "There was something divine in him," Sara reflects.

As June 10 marked the 80th birth anniversary of Yusuf Arakkal, *CE* spends a day at a retrospective exhibition celebrating the late artist's legacy



Yusuf Arakkal

A homecoming

Now, years after his passing, Yusuf went back to Kerala through an exhibition curated by Sara. "That is where he was born," Sara says. "I wanted people who knew him to experience his spirit again."

On entering the gallery, one is met not with grandeur but with gravitas. The walls are lined with heavy, moody canvases where isolation hangs like fog.

At the entrance, one sculpture stands out: a rusted copper car that looks both futuristic and fossilised. "He made it from scrap," Sara explains. "He once worked with machines, and somehow, that never left his fingers." The car is a metaphor of sorts, of moving forward while holding onto history.

One of the most moved visitors to the gallery was KR Upendra, an adjunct professor, who teaches at Christ University and RV University in Bengaluru. "I came all the way just to see this," he says. "I didn't know Yusuf Arakkal personally. But I know what it means to stand on a stage and show your inner scars. His work does that, without words."

Upendra finds resonance between Yusuf's art and the psycho-physical methods he teaches in theatre. "There's a strange discipline to his chaos. A quiet rage," he says. "He doesn't just paint poverty. He paints its weight. Its stillness."

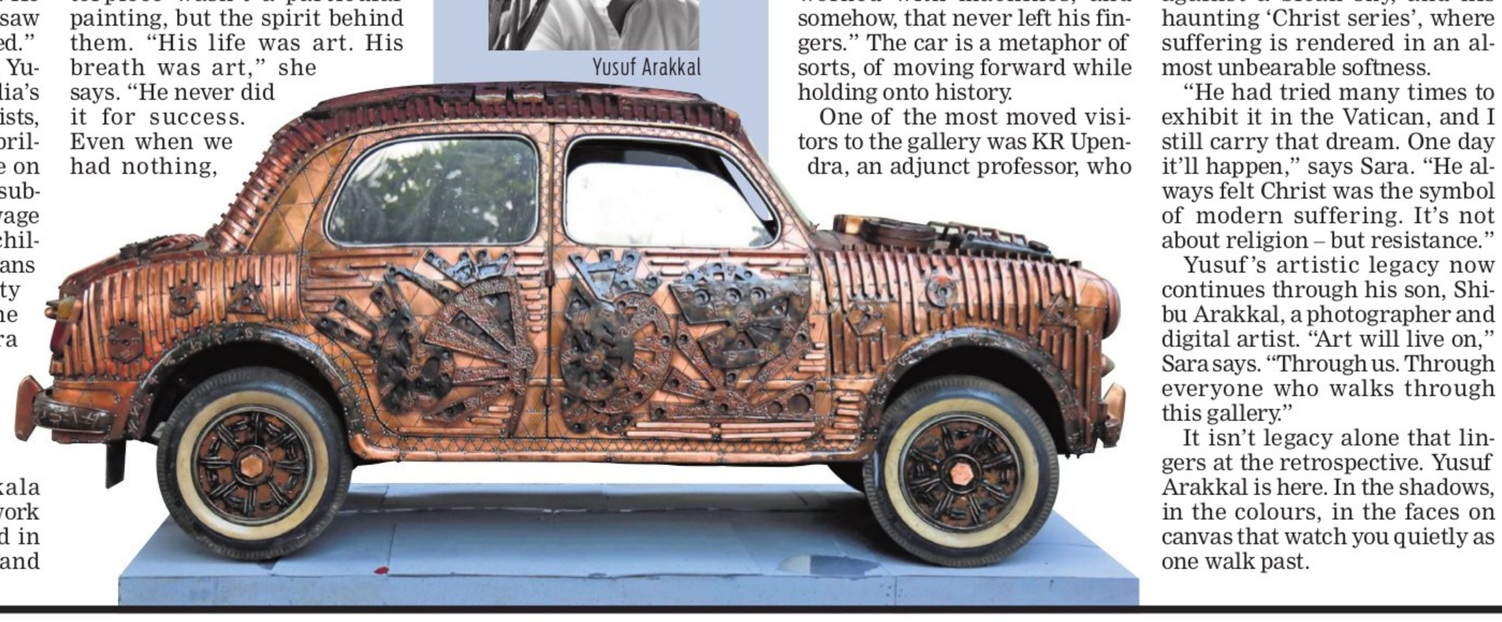
He points to Yusuf's powerful portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. "You don't see these men as heroes here. You see them as humans," he says. "Their tired eyes, their meditative pain – he makes you feel their exhaustion. That's a different kind of tribute."

The exhibition also includes pieces from Arakkal's Cry of the Kite series, which captures a metaphorical child's longing against a bleak sky, and his haunting 'Christ series', where suffering is rendered in an almost unbearable softness.

"He had tried many times to exhibit it in the Vatican, and I still carry that dream. One day it'll happen," says Sara. "He always felt Christ was the symbol of modern suffering. It's not about religion – but resistance."

Yusuf's artistic legacy now continues through his son, Shibu Arakkal, a photographer and digital artist. "Art will live on," Sara says. "Through us. Through everyone who walks through this gallery."

It isn't legacy alone that lingers at the retrospective. Yusuf Arakkal is here. In the shadows, in the colours, in the faces on canvas that watch you quietly as one walk past.



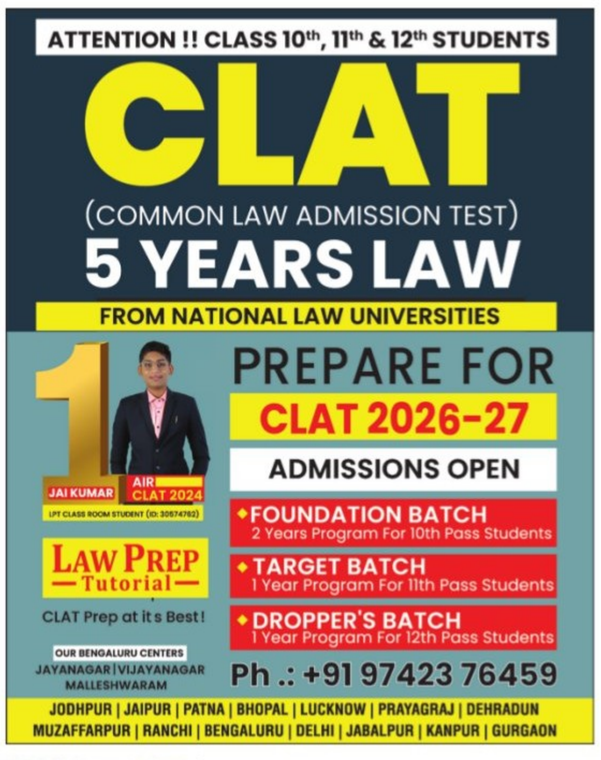
CITY READ

Actor Neha Sharma inaugurates beauty event

Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka hosted Beauty Xperience 2025, a three-day celebration from June 13 to June 15 with global beauty brands, expert masterclasses, and live entertainment. Bollywood actor Neha Sharma inaugurated the event, which featured pop-up beauty bars, makeovers, fragrance lounges, and exclusive brand launches. The event included sessions by prominent personalities like Gauri Kapoor, Sandhya Shekar, and Bhumika Bahl and showcases by brands like Nykaa, Sephora, Dior, MAC, and more. The event concluded with live performances by bands StringFisher, Kanya, and The Fernandes Trio, adding rhythm to the weekend.

Artist Bharati Sagar presents solo show

Veteran artist Bharati Sagar returns with 'A Tryst With Nature', a solo show from June 21 to July 2 at 11 am at MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road. Known for her emotive figurative works, Sagar's latest series explores the human-nature connection through earthy, imaginative characters that invite viewers into a world of storytelling and introspection. Her evolving material language from oil on masonite to experiments with iron dust, aluminium embossing, bitumen, pastels, and charcoal adds rich texture to this new body of work. These compositions reflect her deep concern for the environment and her lifelong engagement with visual storytelling. Overall Sagar's show aims to be not just a showcase of art, but a quiet call to reconnect with nature.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FROM NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITIES
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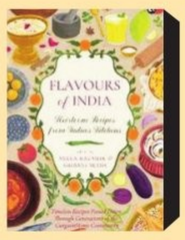
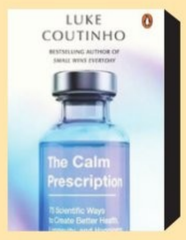
BOOK NOOK



Flavours of India: Heirloom Recipes from India's Kitchens

By Neela Kaushik and Shibani Sethi

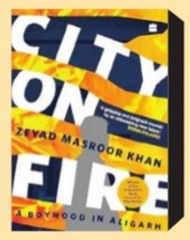
From refreshing beverages and tangy pickles and chutneys to wholesome vegetarian meals, indulgent non-vegetarian specialities, and decadent sweets, the book presents fifty exquisite, timeless recipes.



The Calm Prescription: 75 Scientific Ways to Create Better Health, Longevity, and Happiness

By Luke Coutinho

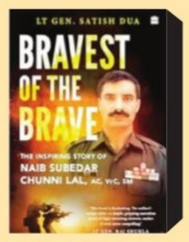
It is your toolkit for longevity and joy, built not on hacks, but on healing. If health is your priority, this book is your new daily ritual.



City on Fire : A Boyhood in Aligarh

By Zeyad Masroor Khan

A rare visceral portrait of how everyday violence and hate become part of our lives and consciousness, of a society where name and clothes mark out a person as the 'other'.



Bravest of the Brave : The Inspiring Story of Naib Subedar Chunni Lal, AC, VrC, SM

By Lt General Satish Dua (Retd)

Naib Subedar Chunni Lal, with the Sena Medal, the Veer Chakra and Ashok Chara, became the highest awarded soldier of the Indian Army, after he was killed in action.

STAR-STUDDED STAGE

Popular actor Yashwant Sardeshpande performing in the play *Amara Madhura Prema* as a part of Uttarottasama Utsav 2025 held at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

CHICKEN IN LEMON BUTTER SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

- **Boneless, skinless chicken breasts:** 2
- **Chopped garlic:** 1 tsp
- **Olive oil:** 2 tbsp
- **Butter:** 2 tbsp
- **Zest & juice of** ½ lemon
- **Chicken broth:** ½ cup
- **Parsley:** Chopped

METHOD

- Season the chicken with salt and pepper and keep it for marination for about one hour.
- Heat olive oil in a pan and cook the chicken for 3-4 minutes per side on medium heat until browned and cooked through.
- Add butter and garlic to the pan and then stir in lemon zest, juice and chicken broth. Bring to a simmer for 4-5 minutes to thicken the broth.
- Garnish with parsley and serve alongside sautéed vegetables and a bed of rice.

Contributed by **Pragyaa Banerjee,** Kozhikode

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Clay Zone

Try your hand at wheel pottery in this 45-minute session. Learn basic throwing and shaping techniques with all materials provided. No prior experience is necessary and participants will be guided by an expert.

WHEN: June 17, 11am onwards
WHERE: StoryZone Studio, HSR Layout
CALL: 73491 51504

Monday Mania

Enjoy Bollywood beats, nonstop music, and a lively dance floor while sipping on cocktails and mocktails, and trying delicious food offers throughout the night. Shake off those Monday blues with music, movement, and celebration.

WHEN: June 16, 8pm
WHERE: Sugar Factory Reloaded, Koramangala
DETAILS: highape.com

Stagecraft

Learn what it takes to put a show together with Theatre Prepares, a series of sessions led by experienced professionals across acting, direction, lighting, producing, and more. The workshops promise to build skills and strengthen community connections. **WHEN:** Until June 29, 10am
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
CALL: 080 2649 3982

Culinary Experiments

Learn how to make delicious vegetarian Italian dishes like vegetable pizza, pizza margarita, pasta salad, creamy pasta, and more at this cooking class with course director Pushpa Tated. **WHEN:** June 16, 11am
WHERE: Anjali Cooking School, Jayanagar
CALL: 94489 25759

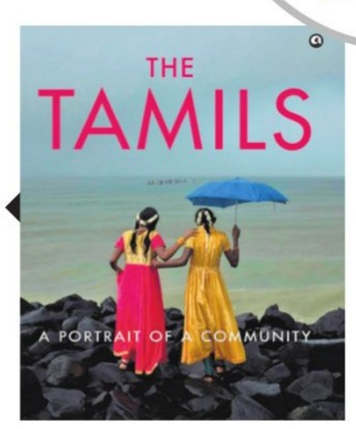
Shelf To Self

Join a meet-up to talk about books, authors, or poets who have made an impact. Bring along a book you're currently reading or one that shaped your thoughts to engage in lively conversation with other book lovers. **WHEN:** June 18, 8pm **WHERE:** Bistro Claytopia, Koramangala
DETAILS: eventbrite.com

Cultural Deep Dive

Author Nirmala Lakshman joins philanthropist and businessman Ranvir Shah to discuss her book *The Tamils*, tracing the journey of Tamil civilisation from early history to the present. They explore how literature, politics, caste, religion, gender, and migration shape Tamil identity.

WHEN: June 17, 6.30pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org



Playing Around

Take your kids and explore a play zone with DIY crafts, trampolines, adventure areas, pretend playrooms and a variety of indoor games. Use the drop-and-shop option to get your shopping done while your children enjoy the space.

WHEN: June 16, 10am onwards
WHERE: Awesome Place at Mantri Square Mall, Malleswaram
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

Our half-stray has developed a habit of sitting in the landing of our stairs and coming up after much cajoling. If we leave her alone, she comes up eventually, but creates nuisance for others. Solution?

Your indie dog's habit may stem from a mix of curiosity and hesitation. She might enjoy observing from the landing or feel unsure about coming up without reassurance. To help her adjust, try using treats or a favourite toy to encourage her upstairs. Training her to respond to a specific command can also be useful. Creating a cosy, inviting space upstairs with her blanket or bed may make her feel more secure. If she tends to block the way for visitors, gently guiding her up before they arrive can prevent issues. With patience and consistency, she'll likely adapt over time.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

UPAVISTHA JANU CHAKRA
(SEATED KNEE ROTATION)

This is more of a warm-up pose before an Ashtanga, Vinyasa practice, Power Yoga/Pilates session, or other routines. It is also considered a Sukshma Vyayama, a subtle practice. It is particularly beneficial for beginners or those with limited mobility looking to improve joint health and flexibility in the lower body. It enhances knee flexibility, mobility, and strength, and strengthens the lower back, quadriceps, and hip and ankle joints. It is a strengthening practice after a knee injury or surgery. It can be included in yoga for senior citizens and is included in therapeutic and restorative yoga sequences for rheumatoid arthritis and nocturnal leg cramps.

STEPS

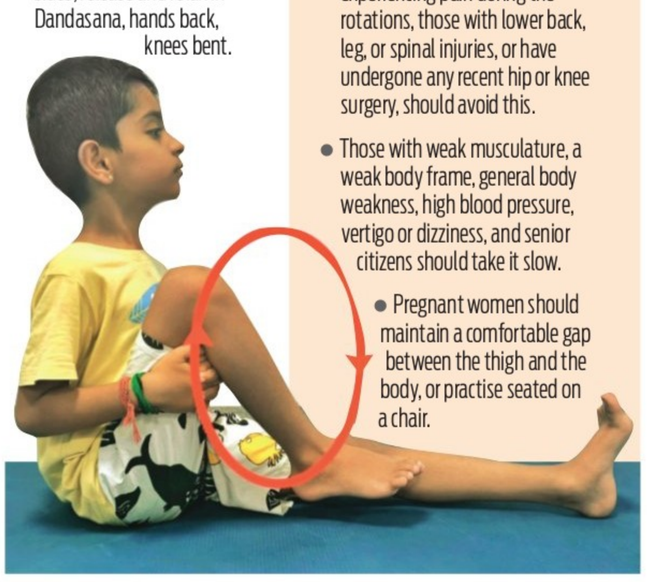
- Start in Dandasana and take a few breaths.
- Inhale, bend your right leg, bring the thigh close to the body, and point the knee upwards.
- Place your hands under the right thigh and interlock your fingers, keeping the elbows close to the body. Keep the left leg straight.
- Inhale, lift the right foot. To make circles, move the right lower leg towards the left, then take it up, and, exhaling, bring it down back to the centre from the right side.
- Ensure your right foot doesn't touch the ground, and the upper leg and trunk remain completely still.
- Rotate the leg clockwise and anticlockwise five times each.
- Then, bring the leg to the centre. Exhale, release the hands and straighten the right leg in Dandasana. Repeat on the left leg.
- After practising both sides, release and relax in Dandasana, hands back, knees bent.

BENEFITS

- Enhances the flexibility of the muscles around the knees and strengthens the quadriceps.
- Helps strengthen the back and hip muscles as well.
- Builds a connection with the centre and strengthens the core, knees, legs, and lower back.
- Contributes to interconnected joint structures and stability.
- Prevents imbalances in the lower body that can lead to posture issues and discomfort.
- Strengthens the knee joint for day-to-day activities.
- Maintains balance and stability during walking, running, climbing, standing, etc.
- Stimulates production and circulation of synovial fluid within the joint, preventing joint degeneration and reducing the risk of inflammation.
- Fights symptoms related to arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- Reduces sudden and painful muscle contractions and nocturnal leg cramps.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with a knee injury, or experiencing pain during the rotations, those with lower back, leg, or spinal injuries, or have undergone any recent hip or knee surgery, should avoid this.
- Those with weak musculature, a weak body frame, general body weakness, high blood pressure, vertigo or dizziness, and senior citizens should take it slow.
- Pregnant women should maintain a comfortable gap between the thigh and the body, or practise seated on a chair.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

A SACRED SOUL

Artist Beenu Gupta's Buddha In Meditation symbolises his quest for deeper concentration and spiritual enlightenment

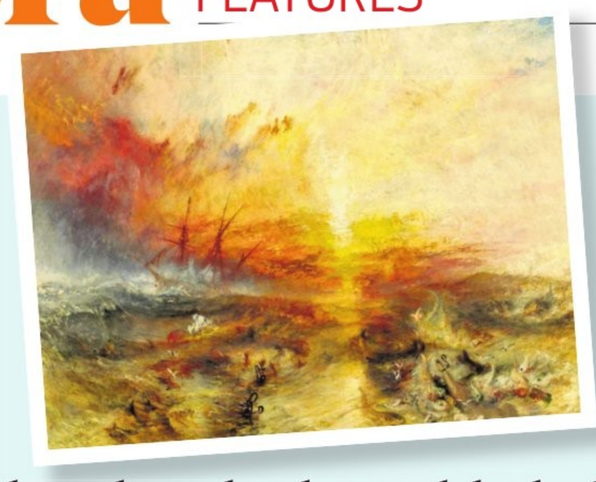
From volcanoes to famines, throughout the ages, artists have captured catastrophes on canvas. Here's a look at five such works

NATURE'S FURY ON CANVAS

NATURE has inspired artists for generations. The term art has always conjured visions of beautiful landscapes and natural phenomena such as the setting of the sun and its rising, sandwiched between two mountains. Although the subject of the art has stereotypically been thought to have the sole purpose of functioning as a calming effect on our tired souls, artists have also used their canvases to portray human tragedies that have occurred in the midst of nature's fury. These masterpieces have survived the test of time and have remained as visual documents of both environmental and social history.

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

(The writer is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)



The typhoon that devoured the dead

ENGLISH artist JMW Turner, known for his landscapes and turbulent marine paintings, captured not only the terrifying splendour of a storm, but also the brutality of what happened to the human lives caught in it, in his celebrated painting titled 'The Slave Ship' from 1840. The work is based on the true story of the overloaded slave ship 'Zong' which crossed the Atlantic in 1781. Almost 130 enslaved African people were mercilessly thrown into the sea by the crew, on the orders of the captain, when the ship met with several navigational errors and storms. Water and food had to be conserved, and the decision to lighten the load by throwing off the sick into the depths of the sea was executed. As insurance was taken out on the lives of the slaves as cargo, the owners of the ship made claims for the 'loss at sea.' A legal dispute followed when the insurers refused to pay, and the massacre slowly gained publicity, especially among anti-slavery campaigners. The horror of it all has been depicted by Turner in his painting, which shows a ship sailing in a storm, with drowning human bodies around, accompanied by loose chains and hungry, menacing fishes – a gory sight indeed.

When famine struck

WHEN nature fails, the human race suffers. The Bengal Famine of 1943 led to the deaths of almost three million people. A devastating cyclone in 1942 and the spread of a crop disease culminated in a food shortage, which was ignored by the British colonial powers then. The situation worsened when the British authorities not only failed to provide relief measures but also diverted the scarce food stock for the World War II effort in Europe. Chittaprosad Bhattacharya, a Bengali artist, documented the injustice and misery of the starving millions with his stark sketches in black and white. His outlined forms, which showed skeletal shadows of humans on their deathbeds, hopelessness and hunger in their eyes, haunted the conscience of the nation and continues to be the most powerful famine reflections ever portrayed in art.

Sunset in Oslo

WHO hasn't heard of 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch, one of the most famous paintings in history? While William Ascroft made his scientific illustrations of the evening sky in Britain, the same orange sky was also observed by Edvard Munch in Oslo. In Munch's own description, he stated, "I was walking along the road with two friends – then the sun set – all at once the sky became blood red – and I felt overcome with melancholy. I stood still and leaned against the railing, dead tired – clouds like blood and tongues of fire hung above the blue-black fjord and the city. My friends went on, and I stood alone, trembling with anxiety. I felt a great, unending scream piercing through nature."

Scientists believe that the Krakatoa eruption was followed by the loudest sound ever recorded, which was heard over a tenth of the Earth's surface, and this great scream from the depths of the Earth was perhaps reproduced by Munch as a metaphor for anxiety and existential dread in his iconic artwork.

Multi-coloured skies

THE volcanic eruption in the Indonesian island of Krakatoa in August 1883 led to a series of tsunamis that wiped out coastal villages and killed almost 40,000 people. The impact affected most parts of the world, with temperatures dropping due to the ash and the debris in the Earth's upper atmosphere. For two months, the evening skies in different countries took on the multi-coloured hues, creating spectacular sunsets. The Krakatoa Committee of the Royal Society hired William Ascroft to capture these visual displays. Every evening, the artist wandered through lanes and fields to paint the eruption's afterglow. More than 500 of his paintings are today's most important climatological archive of the alluring skies after a volcanic eruption.

A catastrophic eruption

WHEN Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, it buried the Roman city of Pompeii under ash and debris. The doomed inhabitants fell prey to the massive surge of deposits. This natural catastrophe comes alive in the painting 'The Last Day of Pompeii' by renowned Russian painter Karl Bryullov in 1830. Although no one survived, the artist depicts himself fleeing the eruption along with a group of people and his prized possessions – his brushes and paints. This monumental canvas is one of the most chilling depictions of the destruction of Pompeii by an environmental disaster.

ALLEGORIES OF ROYAL GAMES

WHILE many of us think of games as something limited to two or four people around the table in a family, in ancient times, games had far wider connotations, and not just in India.

For example, in Greek and Roman traditions, funerary games were competitions held in honour of the deceased person, often a hero or a noble figure, as part of their funeral rites. This is graphically described in Homer's *Iliad*, when Achilles organised elaborate games to honour his fallen friend, Patroclus. The purpose of these games was to pay tribute to the dead, to appease the gods as the games were seen as offerings, and of course, to display wealth and power.

Closer to home, in India, games were very much a part of the Rajasuya ceremonies. The Rajasuya ceremony was one of the most prestigious and elaborate royal rituals in ancient times. It was a consecration ceremony performed by the king to assert his sovereignty. The purpose of the Rajasuya was to legitimise the king's rule through divine sanction and assert his supremacy over other kings who were invited to attend and who offered tribute. It helped to unify the realm under a single authority.

While there were numerous ceremonies conducted, one of the very important symbolic acts was a game of dice. The game of dice was a symbolic ritual act during the Rajasuya ceremonies.

It was not a casual game, but a sacred performance, carrying profound significance. The king was made to win the game, an act that symbolised that fortune and divine will were on his side, thus legitimising his rule. While the dice represented unpredictability, by winning, the king demonstrated his mastery over fate, which was considered an important trait of a sovereign.

It was a staged game, not competitive, and was part of the sacred drama of kinship in the Rajasuya ceremonies. In the *Mahabharata*, the game took on a darker tone when Yudhishtra, after performing the Rajasuya, was invited to a real game of dice, which led to his downfall. This game, highlighting the difference between ritual and reality, also reflected the Indian philosophical view of life being an interplay of choice and chance.

What was the game that was played? One is not quite sure. Some references say it was played with four dice to represent the four directions. Some say it was played with five cowrie shells, and each shell had symbolic meanings. It seems unlikely that it was an actual board game from the descriptions. It was probably just the throw of the dice and results based on the numbers reflected in the throw.

It is interesting to see what an enormous role games play in our lives, not just in personal everyday interactions, but in the larger context.

VINITA SIDHARTHA

The writer is an author and the founder of Kreeda, an organisation reviving traditional games

NUGGETS

Coffee brand opens flagship café in city

Tribes Coffee has launched its flagship café in HSR Layout, bringing brews from regions like as Nimmagedda, Koraput, Daringbadi, Paduwa, Similiguda, Paderu and Araku Valley, showcasing India's indigenous communities' generations-old coffee traditions. Customers can expect bold, forest-grown brews alongside bites like truffle mushroom pizza, quinoa-sweet potato burgers, and cold egg sandwiches. Four tribal women, Seedarapu Gangamma, Buridi Asha Latha, Buridi Munisha, and Addakatla Gennu, recognised by the Prime Minister for their contributions to sustainable farming, travelled from the tribal village of Nimmagedda in Andhra Pradesh to be the chief guests as founder Kiran Nerlige Gowda launched the store.

Restaurant to launch new sushi menu on June 18

Yataii, the Japanese restaurant at Shangri-La, Vasanth Nagar, is set to celebrate World Sushi Day on June 18 with a special sushi menu available from 6.30pm to 11.30pm every day, excluding Tuesdays. The menu allows customers to mix and match from the cooked sushi maki platter including options like tempura roll, guacamole roll, cream cheese sushi, prawn tempura, tuna mayo and eel sushi. Highlights from the sushi maki section include the indulgent dragon maki and spider maki. Vegetarian options include spicy guacamole asparagus maki, vegetable tempura roll, and garden green rolls. Sashimi selections feature cut slices of salmon, tuna, squid, and more. For reservations, call 80451 26100.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVAKUMARA KURUBALANAHUNDI LINGE GOWDA (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS, S/O LINGE GOWDA, RESIDING AT NO 209, 1ST FLOOR, MANJUNATHA NILAYA, 2ND MAIN, 2ND STAGE, RANGANATHGA COLONY, OPP BHEL, BENGALURU 560026, KARNATAKA STATE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **SHIVA KUMAR KURUBALANAHUNDI LINGE GOWDA (NEW NAME),** VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 02/JUN/2025, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN, BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIRMALA SAPAN NAVLAKHA (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS, W/O SAPAN KUMAR, RESIDING AT FLAT NO D-301, NO 732, NAKODA HERITAGE APARTMENTS, 59TH CROSS, 4TH BLOCK, RAJAJINAGAR, BENGALURU 560010, KARNATAKA STAGE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **NIRMALA (NEW NAME),** VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 22/MAY/2025, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN, BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIMALA (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 54 YEARS, W/O JAYARAMA, RESIDING AT RAGHAVENDRA NILAYA, NEAR TUMAKURU GATE, MADHUGIRI TALUK, TUMAKURU DISTRICT 572132, KARNATAKA STAGE, TODAY CAMPING AT BENGALURU, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **VIMALA JAYARAM HANUMANTHAPPA (NEW NAME),** VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 04/JUN/2025, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN, BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RUPA S PILLAI,** spouse of **SATHISH KUMAR PILLAI,** resident of P-19, HQ Training Command IAF, Bangalore - 560006, Karnataka have changed my name from **RUPA S PILLAI** to **RUPA SATISH PILLAI** vide affidavit dated: 14-06-2025 before Notary **R. BASAVARAJA** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **K. KADHIRESHAN** S/o CN Kumar, aged about 47 years, residing at No.11/6, SR Garden, Vannerpet, Bengaluru North,Viveknagar, Bengaluru-560047 have change our names from **KADHIRESHAN C. N** to **K. KADHIRESHAN** and my wife has changed her name from **RADHIKA.K** to **RADHIKA KADHIRESHAN**, vide Affidavit dated 12-06-2025 before Notary **N. Narayanaswamy,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. **KANDALAM BHAVYA SARANYA**, D/o Sreekanth Kandalam, aged about 33 years, residing at 22-1135/3b, Sri Sai Nilayam, Flat No. 101, Kongareddy Palli, Opp. Chittoor Eye Hospital, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh - 517001, I declare that below mentioned all names **BHAVYA SARANYA K**, **BHAVYA SARANYA**, **BHAVYA SARANYA KANDALAM** and **KANDALAM BHAVYA SARANYA** belongs to me only and one and the same person's names only, vide affidavit dated 12/6/2025 sworn to before G.Dayananda Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SIJI CHACKO**, aged about 50 years, S/o. Noorokariyal Thomas Chacko, Residing at: Flat No. A 505, Co evolve Northern Star, Sampigehalli Road, Chokkanahalli, Jakkur, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560064, I declare that my given name is **SIJI** and **CHACKO** is my surname., vide affidavit dated 12/6/2025 sworn to before G.R.Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mr.Krishnappa.C** S/o.Late.Poojari Chikkamunishamappa, Aged about 60 Years Residing at: #302, Kerekodi Road, Opposite Chowdeshwari Kalyana Mantapa, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064, I declare that below mentioned both names **Mr.Krishnappa.C** and **Mr.Krishna** belongs to me only and one and the same person's names only, vide affidavit dated 13/6/2025 sworn to before K.V.Nanjaiah Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GIRIJA NANJUNDAPPA (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS, W/O VENKATARAJU BANGALORE NARAYAN, RESIDING AT NO 104, 2ND MAIN, 6TH CROSS, KENGERI SATELLITE TOWN, BENGALURU 560060, KARNATAKA STATE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **GIRIJA BANGALORE NANJUNDAPPA (NEW NAME),** VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 22/MAY/2025, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN, BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAPAN NAVLAKHA (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 51 YEARS, S/O MANAK CHAND NAVLAKHA, RESIDING AT FLAT NO D-301, NO 732, NAKODA HERITAGE APARTMENTS, 59TH CROSS, 4TH BLOCK, RAJAJINAGAR, BENGALURU 560010, KARNATAKA STAGE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **SAPAN KUMAR (NEW NAME),** VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 22/MAY/2025, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN, BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PREETI SIDHARTH,** spouse of **NIRAJ SIDHARTH** resident of RBSSS Road, Gumti No. 3, Bhikhanpur, Bhagalpur-812001, presently residing at F-103, Akshaya Palms, Thammiah Garden, Abbigere, Bengaluru-560090, have changed my name from **PREETI SIDHARTH** to **REENA SIDHARTH** vide affidavit dated 13-06-25 before Notary **JALANDHARA,** Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SASIKALA B.** Aged about 81 Years D/o **Natarajan,** Residing at No. 80, 2nd Stage 1st Cross, Kodanda Rama Garden Jeevanahalli, Bengaluru- 560005 have changed my name from **N SASIKALA BALARAMAN** vide affidavit dated: 27-03-2024 Sworn Before Advocate & Notary **J. ANAND KUMAR,** Bengaluru- 560002.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAVI KUMAR KULKARNI** S/o. Late Janardhan Rao, R/o No.54 2nd Cross, SAI Garden Layout 8th Main, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097, do hereby declare that, I have changed my son's name from **SHRIHAN RAVI KUMAR KULKARNI** to **SHRIHAN KULKARNI**. Henceforth, he shall be known and called as **SHRIHAN KULKARNI** only, vide affidavit dated 14/06/2025, sworn before advocate and notary K.C.Pemmaiah, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KRISHNA PATTAR S/o. Prakash Pattar Aged about 51 Years Residing at 1798, 2nd Floor, 3rd Stage, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560064, have changed my name from **KRISHNA** to **KRISHNA PATTAR.,** vide affidavit dated 13/6/2025 sworn to before D. Sarala Kumari Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **FAIQ UMAIR** S/o. Zameer Ahmed, Aged about 21 Years Residing at No. 47, MIG B 1st Floor, 16th Block, 249, Scheme Apartment, 5th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru - 560064, have changed my name from **FAEQ UMAER** to **FAIQ UMAIR,** vide affidavit dated 14/6/2025 sworn to before D.Sarala Kumari Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAIK NAVEED** S/o. Shaik Mahaboob, aged about 18 years, residing at No. 680, Avalahalli, Bengaluru-560062, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SYED NAHD & SYED NAHID** to **SHAIK NAVEED**, vide affidavit dated 10.06.2025, sworn to before K.N. Ramadevi, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

SAMRUDDHI MANJUNATH TO BACK GANESH AND SRINIVAS RAJU'S ROMANTIC ENTERTAINER

Currently in the prep stage, the film marks acclaimed composer Hesham Abdul Wahab's Kannada debut

A SHARADHAA

AFTER delivering a successful hit with *Krishnam Pranaya Sakhi*, actor Ganesh and director Srinivas Raju are reportedly reuniting for another film. The buzz surrounding their collaboration has been building for some time, and the project now moves a step closer to go on floors with producer Samruddhi Manjunath officially coming on board.

Known for producing *life Jothe Ondu Selfie*, directed by Dinakar Thoogudeepa, and the upcoming Dhanveerrah-starrer *Hayagreeva*, this project is set to mark Samruddhi Manjunath's third film as a producer.

Speaking to Cinema Express, director Srinivas Raju confirmed the development: "We are happy to collaborate with Samruddhi Manjunath. We are planning to go on floors sometime this year," he said. "Ganesh is currently busy with *Pinaka* and *Yours Sincerely, Ram*. Meanwhile, I'm working on the script, and the preparation work has already begun."

Talking further about their previous success, the director added, "*Krishnam Pranaya Sakhi* was a successful debut collaboration, and I want to maintain that tempo. I'm planning to present Ganesh in yet another unique love entertainer."

The film is shaping up with a strong technical crew. Music director Hesham Abdul Wahab, known for his acclaimed work in Malayalam and Telugu films such as *Hridayam*, *Hi Nanna*, *Kushi*, and *Manamey*, will be making his Kannada debut with this project.

"We've locked Hesham for the music, and I'm excited to see how his style blends into Kannada cinema," Srinivas Raju shared.

Cinematographer Venkat Rama Prasad, who worked on *Krishnam Pranaya Sakhi*, will be returning for this project. Noted action duo Ram-Lakshman will handle stunt choreography.

The makers are also planning to bring in international expertise for the film. "We are in talks with a UK-based company, Double Positive, to handle the graphics and sound design," the director revealed.

'X&Y explores life through the eyes of an unborn soul'

CE FEATURES

WHAT if your life's story started even before your first breath? That's the imaginative and soul-stirring premise of X&Y, the upcoming Kannada film, written, and directed by D Satya Prakash. The film also marks his acting debut. The trailer, which was recently released, sets the tone for a deeply philosophical and emotional narrative. The film is slated to hit theatres on June 26.

The trailer introduces us to an unborn soul who pleads with God for a chance to visit Earth—just long enough to bring together the two people destined to become its parents. This unique mission begins when the soul enters the body of a man (Atharva Prakash) who has just died in an ambulance operated by the character played by Satya Prakash.

Borrowing time and a body, the soul sets out on a heartfelt quest to unite 'appa' and 'amma'—its future parents—so it can be born into a world it hasn't yet seen. The film promises a blend of whimsy and wonder, offering a fresh take on themes of life, love, and destiny from an angle rarely explored in cinema.

Speaking about the concept, Satya Prakash shares, "We've seen countless stories of ghosts and wandering souls, but I was drawn to the untold journey of a soul that hasn't even been born yet."

He further explains the deeper message behind the subject. "We always talk about leaving a better world for the next generation—we preach a lot, but we rarely practice it. When we invite someone into our home, we clean the house, prepare good food, and show them respect. But when we bring a child into this world, shouldn't we do the same? Instead, we often leave behind chaos. *X&Y* is about that contradiction—about respecting the unborn, and preparing a world that is ready to receive them with dignity."

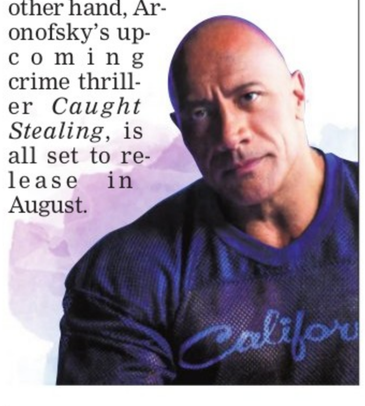
A film with an original premise and thoughtful storytelling from *Rama Rama Re* and *Ondalla Eradalla* director, *X&Y* also stars Brinda Acharya, Atharva Prakash, Doddanna, and Veena Sundar in pivotal roles. The technical team includes cinematography by Lavith, music by Kaushik Harsha and BS Kemparaju, and art direction by Varadaraj Kamath.

Darren Aronofsky in talks to direct Dwayne Johnson

CE FEATURES

ACCORDING to reports Darren Aronofsky, who recently teamed up with A24 for *The Whale*, is in talks to team up with the studio to direct Breakthrough, a new film that will see Dwayne Johnson in a pivotal role. Set in Southern California around the turn of the millennium, Breakthrough follows the story of a disillusioned young man who falls under the sway of a charismatic motivational figure. But behind the charm lies a manipulative core and a dark, hidden agenda. Rumours state that Dwayne Johnson will play the motivational figure. The film is written by Zeke Goodman, who will also produce it alongside A24.

This marks Johnson's second collaboration with A24. He is set to appear in Benny Safdie's The *Smashing Machine*, slated for an October release. The actor is also attached to a Hawaii-set mob drama directed by Martin Scorsese, which also stars Emily Blunt and Leonardo DiCaprio. On the other hand, Aronofsky's upcoming crime thriller *Caught Stealing*, is all set to release in August.



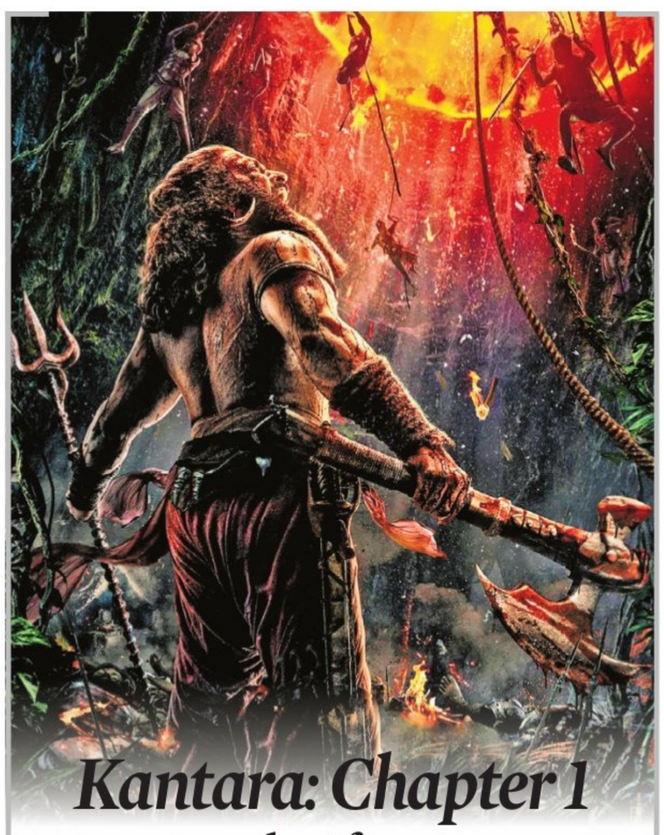
DIRECTED BY KISHORE BHARGAV AND PRODUCED BY VASANT HANGE, THE FILM STARS RISHI IN THE LEAD ROLE

Upendra Limaye to make Kannada debut

CE FEATURES

NATIONAL Award-winning actor Upendra Limaye, celebrated for his work in Marathi and Hindi cinema, is now stepping into the Kannada film industry. He will be playing the antagonist in director Kishore Bhargav's next project. The yet-to-be-titled film stars Rishi in the lead as an NRI who finds himself caught in a surprising face-off with Vasant Rao, played by Upendra Limaye. Known for his intense films like *Psycho* and *Stalker*, Bhargav now ventures into lighter territory with a fun drama. This film is being made as a Kannada-Telugu bilingual produced by Vasant Hange, under the banners of Hanges Sai Vision and Script Tease Films, and is slated to begin shooting in October 2025.

Director Kishore Bhargav shares, "While Rishi plays an NRI who comes to India on business, Upendra Limaye, as Vasant Rao, will lock horns with him in a significant face-off." He then adds, "It's a character-driven conflict, wrapped in light-hearted storytelling. Casting Upendra Limaye was a conscious choice—we wanted someone with gravitas, and his Kannada debut will make an impact." The film's cinematographer is Shrish Tomar, while the music is composed by Skanda Kashyap. The screenplay and editing are helmed by Somshekhar N Karadi, who also co-wrote the film alongside Bhargav, and Smita Kulkarni handling the art direction. Speaking about the essence of the film, Bhargav adds, "This is a departure from my earlier thrillers. With Rishi's natural charm and Upendra Limaye's intense screen presence, audiences can expect an entertaining yet meaningful ride."



Kantara: Chapter 1 crew clarifies: Boat capsized without anyone onboard, no casualties

CE FEATURES

THE *Kantara: Chapter 1* shoot has faced several unfortunate incidents over time. Earlier, the team mourned the loss of an assistant director who tragically died while swimming. Adding to the sorrow, Rakesh Poojary and Kalabhavan Niju, associated with the project, passed away due to heart attacks. Amidst these challenges, reports surfaced about a boat capsizing during the shoot. The news claimed that a boat carrying over 30 people, including director and actor Rishab Shetty, had tipped over in the Mani reservoir, forcing the crew to swim to the shore.

However, the film's executive producer Adarsha, has now clarified the situation, putting these rumours to rest. "No one was on the boat when it tipped over, and no accidents took place," he assured. Due to strong winds and rain, the ship set used as a backdrop had capsized, but since no one was near it at the time, there were no casualties or harm to the crew. Adarsha explained, "The *Kantara* shoot is happening in Mani reservoir. We had set up a ship for background visuals. On June 14, due to wind and rain, the ship tipped over. But our team members were not around it, and the actual shooting spot was away from that location. Everyone is safe, and shooting continues as planned."

He also highlighted the strict safety protocols in place: "We obtained all necessary permissions and had safety measures like speed boats, fishermen, swimmers, scuba divers, and life jackets on standby. We didn't shoot in the water."

Reiterating the facts, Adarsha added, "Our cameras were safe, and if they had sunk, we wouldn't have been able to continue shooting. The police also inspected the area and confirmed that no mishap had occurred." The official statement from the *Kantara* team clarifies the confusion caused by earlier reports, reassuring that despite past tragedies and recent weather challenges, the film's production remains on track. As of now, the film made under Hombale Films, has entered its final leg of shooting, and has Ajaneesh Loknath composing music, and Arvind Kashyap as its cameraman.

The Rise of Ashoka wraps filming

CE FEATURES

SATHISH Ninasam's next, The Rise of Ashoka, has officially completed its shoot and is now in post-production. The film also stars Kantara-fame Sapthami Gowda. Directed by the late Vinod Dhondale, the film is set in the 1970s and follows a young revolutionary who fights against injustice. Sathish takes on a rugged new avatar, seen in posters wielding a machete. According to the makers, *The Rise of Ashoka* was shot across Srirangapatna, Nanjangud, Gundlupet, and Bengaluru. The project is said to have the biggest budget in Sathish's career. Apart from Kannada, it will also be released in Tamil and Telugu.

Joining Satish and Sapthami on screen is an ensemble cast which includes B Suresh, Ravishankar, Gopalakrishna Deshpande, Sampath Maitreya, Yash Shetty, Dragon Manju, and Harish Peradi of Vikram Vedha-fame. Interestingly, this project was earlier known as *Ashoka Blade* but was paused after director Vinod Dhondale's untimely passing. Actor Satish Ninasam later revived it under the new title, *The Rise of Ashoka*. Produced by Vruddhi Creations and Satish Pictures House, the film is backed by Vardhan Narahari, Jaishnavi, and Satish Neenasam himself. The story is penned by Dayanand T.K., with music by Poornachandra Tejaswi, cinematography by Lavith, and editing by Manu Shedgar. Ravi Varma and Vikram Mor have handled the stunts while dance choreography is done by Santosh Shekar.